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(54) Title: NOVEL MONOCOTYLEDONOUS PLANT GENES AND USES THEREOF

(57) Abstract: Homologues of the Arabidopsis NIM1 gene, which is involved in the signal transduction cascade leading to systemic acquired resistance (SAR), are isolated from monocotyledonous crops such as Triticum aestivum (wheat) and Oryza sativa (rice). The invention further concerns transformation vectors and processes for expressing the monocotyledonous NIMI homologues in transgenic plants to increase SAR gene expression and enhance broad spectrum disease resistance

# NOVEL MONOCOTYLEDONOUS PLANT GENES AND USES THEREOF

The present invention relates to broad-spectrum disease resistance in plants, including the phenomenon of systemic acquired resistance (SAR). More particularly, the present invention relates to the identification, isolation and characterization of monocotyledonous homologues of the *NIM1* gene involved in the signal transduction cascade leading to systemic acquired resistance in plants.

Plants are constantly challenged by a wide variety of pathogenic organisms including viruses, bacteria, fungi, and nematodes. Crop plants are particularly vulnerable because they are usually grown as genetically-uniform monocultures; when disease strikes, losses can be severe. However, most plants have their own innate mechanisms of defense against pathogenic organisms. Natural variation for resistance to plant pathogens has been identified by plant breeders and pathologists and bred into many crop plants. These natural disease resistance genes often provide high levels of resistance to or immunity against pathogens.

Systemic acquired resistance (SAR) is one component of the complex system plants use to defend themselves from pathogens (Hunt and Ryals, 1996; Ryals *et al.*, 1996). *See also*, U.S. Patent No. 5,614,395. SAR is a particularly important aspect of plant-pathogen responses because it is a pathogen-inducible, systemic resistance against a broad spectrum of infectious agents, including viruses, bacteria, and fungi. When the SAR signal transduction pathway is blocked, plants become more susceptible to pathogens that normally cause disease, and they also become susceptible to some infectious agents that would not normally cause disease (Gaffney *et al.*, 1993; Delaney *et al.*, 1994; Delaney *et al.*, 1995, Delaney, 1997; Bi *et al.*, 1995; Mauch-Mani and Slusarenko, 1996). These observations indicate that the SAR signal transduction pathway is critical for maintaining plant health.

Conceptually, the SAR response can be divided into two phases. In the initiation phase, a pathogen infection is recognized, and a signal is released that travels through the phloem to distant tissues. This systemic signal is perceived by target cells, which react by expression of both SAR genes and disease resistance. The maintenance phase of SAR

refers to the period of time, from weeks up to the entire life of the plant, during which the plant is in a guasi steady state, and disease resistance is maintained (Ryals *et al.*, 1996).

Salicylic acid (SA) accumulation appears to be required for SAR signal transduction. Plants that cannot accumulate SA due to treatment with specific inhibitors, epigenetic repression of phenylalanine ammonia-lyase, or transgenic expression of salicylate hydroxylase, which specifically degrades SA, also cannot induce either SAR gene expression or disease resistance (Gaffney *et al.*, 1993; Delaney *et al.*, 1994; Mauch-Mani and Slusarenko, 1996; Maher *et al.*, 1994; Pallas *et al.*, 1996). Although it has been suggested that SA might serve as the systemic signal, this is currently controversial and, to date, all that is known for certain is that if SA cannot accumulate, then SAR signal transduction is blocked (Pallas *et al.*, 1996; Shulaev *et al.*, 1995; Vernooij *et al.*, 1994).

Recently, *Arabidopsis* has emerged as a model system to study SAR (Uknes *et al.*, 1992; Uknes *et al.*, 1993; Cameron *et al.*, 1994; Mauch-Mani and Slusarenko, 1994; Dempsey and Klessig, 1995). It has been demonstrated that SAR can be activated in *Arabidopsis* by both pathogens and chemicals, such as SA, 2,6-dichloroisonicotinic acid (INA) and benzo(1,2,3)thiadiazole-7-carbothioic acid *S*-methyl ester (BTH) (Uknes *et al.*, 1992; Vernooij *et al.*, 1995; Lawton *et al.*, 1996). Following treatment with either INA or BTH or pathogen infection, at least three pathogenesis-related (PR) protein genes, namely, PR-1, PR-2, and PR-5 are coordinately induced concomitant with the onset of resistance (Uknes *et al.*, 1992, 1993). In tobacco, the best characterized species, treatment with a pathogen or an immunization compound induces the expression of at least nine sets of genes (Ward *et al.*, 1991). Transgenic disease-resistant plants have been created by transforming plants with various SAR genes (U.S. Patent No. 5,614,395).

Although most of the studies on SAR have been conducted in dicotyledonous plants, SAR has been demonstrated in monocotyledonous plants as well. For example, SAR has been demonstrated in rice, where an inducing infection by *P.s.* pv syringae led to systemic protection against *Pyricularia oryzae* (Smith and Metraux, 1991), the causative agent of leaf blast, and in barley and wheat, where a prior infection by *Erysiphe graminis* led to enhanced protection against *E. graminis*, the causative agent of powdery mildew (Schweizer et al., 1989; Hwang and Heitefuss, 1992). Chemically induced resistance by INA has been described in barley (Kogel et al., 1994, Wasternack et al., 1994). More recently, B1H has been shown to induce acquired resistance in wheat against *E. graminis*, *Puccinia recondita*, and *Septoria* spp., and to induce the accumulation of transcripts from a number of novel

plant genes that are also shown to be induced during pathogen infection (Görlach et al., 1996).

A number of *Arabidopsis* mutants have been isolated that have modified SAR signal transduction (Delaney, 1997). The first of these mutants are the so-called *Isd* (lesions simulating disease) mutants and *acd2* (accelerated cell death) (Dietrich *et al.*, 1994; Greenberg *et al.*, 1994). These mutants all have some degree of spontaneous necrotic lesion formation on their leaves, elevated levels of SA, mRNA accumulation for the SAR genes, and significantly enhanced disease resistance. At least seven different *Isd* mutants have been isolated and characterized (Dietrich *et al.*, 1994; Weymann *et al.*, 1995). Another interesting class of mutants are *cim* (constitutive immunity) mutants (Lawton *et al.*, 1993). *See also*, U.S. Patent No. 5,792,904 and International PCT Application WO 94/16077. Like *Isd* mutants and *acd2*, *cim* mutants have elevated SA and SAR gene expression and resistance, but in contrast to *Isd* or *acd2*, do not display detectable lesions on their leaves. *cpr1* (constitutive expresser of PR genes) may be a type of *cim* mutant; however, because the presence of microscopic lesions on the leaves of *cpr1* has not been ruled out, *cpr1* might be a type of *Isd* mutant (Bowling *et al.*, 1994).

Mutants have also been isolated that are blocked in SAR signaling. ndr1 (non-racespecific disease resistance) is a mutant that allows growth of both Pseudomonas syringae containing various avirulence genes and also normally avirulent isolates of Peronospora parasitica (Century et al., 1995). Apparently this mutant is blocked early in SAR signaling. npr1 (nonexpresser of PR genes) is a mutant that cannot induce expression of the SAR signaling pathway following INA treatment (Cao et al., 1994). eds (enhanced disease susceptibility) mutants have been isolated based on their ability to support bacterial infection following inoculation of a low bacterial concentration (Glazebrook et al., 1996; Parker et al., 1996). Certain eds mutants are phenotypically very similar to npr1, and, recently, eds5 and eds53 have been shown to be allelic to npr1 (Glazebrook et al., 1996). nim1 (noninducible immunity) is a mutant that supports P. parasitica (i.e., causal agent of downy mildew disease) growth following INA treatment (Delaney et al., 1995; U.S. Patent No. 5,792,904). Although nim1 can accumulate SA following pathogen infection, it cannot induce SAR gene expression or disease resistance, suggesting that the mutation blocks the pathway downstream of SA. nim1 is also impaired in its ability to respond to INA or BTH. suggesting that the block exists downstream of the action of these chemicals (Delaney et al., 1995; Lawton et al., 1996).

Allelic Arabidopsis genes have been isolated and characterized, mutants of which are responsible for the nim1 and npr1 phenotypes, respectively (Ryals et al., 1997; Cao et al., 1997). The wild-type NIM1 gene product is involved in the signal transduction cascade leading to both SAR and gene-for-gene disease resistance in Arabidopsis (Ryals et al., 1997). Ryals et al., 1997 also report the isolation of five additional alleles of nim1 that show a range of phenotypes from weakly impaired in chemically induced PR-1 gene expression and fungal resistance to very strongly blocked. Transformation of the wild-type NPR1 gene into npr1 mutants not only complemented the mutations, restoring the responsiveness of SAR induction with respect to PR-gene expression and disease resistance, but also rendered the transgenic plants more resistant to infection by P. syringae in the absence of SAR induction (Cao et al., 1997). WO 98/06748 describes the isolation of NPR1 from Arabidopsis and a homologue from Nicotiana glutinosa. See also, WO 97/49822, WO 98/26082, and WO 98/29537. Furthermore, U.S. Patent Application No. 09/265,149 of Salmeron et al. describes the isolation of Nicotiana tabacum (tobacco), Lycopersicon esculentum (tomato), Brassica napus (oilseed rape), and Arabidopsis thaliana homologues of the NIM1 gene. Therefore, while NIM1 homologues have been isolated from a number of dicotyledonous plant species, NIM1 homologues have heretofore not been isolated from any monocotyledonous plant species.

Despite much research and the use of sophisticated and intensive crop protection measures, including genetic transformation of plants, losses due to disease remain in the billions of dollars annually. Therefore, there is a continuing need to develop new crop protection measures based on the ever-increasing understanding of the genetic basis for disease resistance in plants. In particular, there is a need for the identification, isolation, and characterization of *NIM1* homologues from additional species of plants, particularly monocotyledonous plants.

The present invention addresses the aforementioned needs by providing homologues of the *Arabidopsis NIM1* gene from monocotyledonous plant species. In particular, the present invention concerns the isolation of *Triticum aestivum* (wheat) and *Oryza sativa* (rice) homologues of the *NIM1* gene, which encode proteins believed to be involved in the signal transduction cascade responsive to biological and chemical inducers that lead to systemic acquired resistance in plants.

Hence, the present invention is directed to an isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence from a monocotyledonous plant that is a homologue of the *NIM1* gene.

In one particular embodiment, the present invention is directed to an isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence that encodes SEQ ID NO:2, 8, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18, or 20.

In another embodiment, the present invention is directed to an isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising SEQ ID NO:1, 7, 9, 11, 13, 15, 17, or 19.

In a further embodiment, the present invention is directed to an isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence that comprises an at least 20, 25, 30, 35, 40, 45, or 50 (preferably 20) consecutive base pair portion identical in sequence to an at least 20, 25, 30, 35, 40, 45, or 50 (preferably 20) consecutive base pair portion of SEQ ID NO:1, 7, 9, 11, 13, 15, 17, or 19.

In yet another embodiment, the present invention is directed to an isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence that can be amplified from a monocotyledonous plant DNA library using the polymerase chain reaction with the pair of primers set forth as SEQ ID NO:3 and 4 or SEQ ID NO:5 and 6.

In still another embodiment, the present invention is directed to an isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence that can be amplified from a *Orzya sativa* DNA library using the polymerase chain reaction with the pair of primers set forth as SEQ ID NO:3 and 4 or SEQ ID NO:5 and 6.

In yet another embodiment, the present invention is directed to an isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence that can be amplified from a *Triticum aestivum* DNA library using the polymerase chain reaction with the pair of primers set forth as SEQ ID NO:3 and 4 or SEQ ID NO:5 and 6.

In a further embodiment, the present invention is directed to an isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence that can be amplified from a monocotyledonous plant DNA library using the polymerase chain reaction with a pair of primers comprising the first 20 nucleotides and the reverse complement of the last 20 nucleotides of the coding sequence (CDS) of SEQ ID NO:1, 7, 9, 11, 13, 15, 17, or 19.

In a further embodiment, the present invention is directed to an isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence from a monocotyledonous plant that hybridizes to the complement of SEQ ID NO:1, 7, 9, 11, 13, 15, 17, or 19 under stringent hybridization and wash conditions.

The present invention also encompasses a chimeric gene comprising a promoter active in plants operatively linked to a *NIM1* homologue coding sequence of the present invention, a recombinant vector comprising such a chimeric gene, wherein the vector is capable of being stably transformed into a host, as well as a host stably transformed with such a vector. Preferably, the host is a plant such as one of the following agronomically important crops: rice, wheat, barley, rye, canola, sugarcane, corn, potato, carrot, sweet potato, sugar beet, bean, pea, chicory, lettuce, cabbage, cauliflower, broccoli, turnip, radish, spinach, asparagus, onion, garlic, eggplant, pepper, celery, squash, pumpkin, cucumber, apple, pear, quince, melon, plum, cherry, peach, nectarine, apricot, strawberry, grape, raspberry, blackberry, pineapple, avocado, papaya, mango, banana, soybean, tobacco, tomato, sorghum, and sugarcane. More preferably, the host is a monocotyledonous plant. The present invention also encompasses seed from a plant of the invention.

Further, the present invention is directed to a method of increasing SAR gene expression in a plant by expressing in the plant a chimeric gene that itself comprises a promoter active in plants operatively linked to a *NIM1* homologue coding sequence of the present invention, wherein the encoded protein is expressed in the transformed plant at higher levels than in a wild type plant. Preferably, the host is a monocotyledonous plant.

In addition, the present invention is directed to a method of enhancing disease resistance in a plant by expressing in the plant a chimeric gene that itself comprises a promoter active in plants operatively linked to a *NIM1* homologue coding sequence of the present invention, wherein the encoded protein is expressed in the transformed plant at higher levels than in a wild type plant. Preferably, the host is a monocotyledonous plant.

Further, the present invention is directed to a PCR primer that is SEQ ID NO:3 or 4.

The present invention also encompasses a method for isolating a *NIM1* homologue involved in the signal transduction cascade leading to systemic acquired resistance in plants comprising amplifying a DNA molecule from a monocotyledonous plant DNA library using the polymerase chain reaction with a pair of primers corresponding to the first 20 nucleotides and the reverse complement of the last 20 nucleotides of the coding sequence (CDS) of SEQ ID NO:1, 7, 9, 11, 13, 15, 17, or 19 or with the pair of primers set forth as SEQ ID NO:3 and 4 or SEQ ID NO:5 and 6. In a preferred embodiment, the monocotyledonous plant DNA library is a *Oryza sativa* (rice) or *Triticum aestivum* (wheat) DNA library.

SEQ ID NO:1 - Genomic DNA sequence of a NIM1 homologue (pHW01) from wheat.

- SEQ ID NO:2 Protein sequence of the wheat NIM1 homologue encoded by SEQ ID NO:1.
- SEQ ID NO:3 Oligonucleotide primer KL1.
- SEQ ID NO:4 Oligonucleotide primer KL2.
- SEQ ID NO:5 PCR primer NIM 2B.
- SEQ ID NO:6 PCR primer NIM 2D.
- SEQ ID NO:7 498 bp *NIM*-like DNA fragment amplified from *Oryza sativa* (Rice A), which is a consensus of 13 sequences and has 59% sequence identity to the *Arabidopsis thaliana NIM1* gene sequence.
- SEQ ID NO:8 Protein sequence encoded by SEQ ID NO:7.
- SEQ ID NO:9 498 bp *NIM*-like DNA fragment amplified from *Oryza sativa* (Rice B), which has 62% sequence identity to the *Arabidopsis thaliana NIM1* gene sequence.
- SEQ ID NO:10 Protein sequence encoded by SEQ ID NO:9.
- SEQ ID NO:11 498 bp *NIM*-like DNA fragment amplified from *Triticum aestivum* (Wheat), which is a consensus of 3 sequences and has 55% sequence identity to the *Arabidopsis thaliana NIM1* gene sequence.
- SEQ ID NO:12 Protein sequence encoded by SEQ ID NO:11.
- SEQ ID NO:13 Full length cDNA sequence of a *NIM1* homologue from *Oryza sativa* (Rice A), which corresponds to the PCR fragment of SEQ ID NO:7.
- SEQ ID NO:14 Protein sequence of the rice NIM1 homologue encoded by SEQ ID NO:13.
- SEQ ID NO:15 Partial cDNA sequence of a *NIM1* homologue from *Oryza sativa* (Rice B), which corresponds to the PCR fragment of SEQ ID NO:9.
- SEQ ID NO:16 Protein sequence of the rice NIM1 homologue encoded by SEQ ID NO:15.
- SEQ ID NO·17 Full length cDNA sequence of a *NIM1* homologue from *Triticum aestivum* (Wheat), which corresponds to the PCR fragment of SEQ ID NO:11.
- SEQ ID NO:18 Protein sequence of the wheat NIM1 homologue encoded by SEQ ID NO:17.
- SEQ ID NO:19 Full length cDNA sequence corresponding to the *Triticum aestivum* (wheat)

  \*\*NIM-like genomic sequence pHW01 (SEQ ID NO:1).
- SEQ ID NO:20 Protein sequence encoded by SEQ ID NO:19.

In describing the present invention, the following terms may be employed, and are intended to be defined as indicated below.

Associated With / Operatively Linked: Refers to two DNA sequences that are related physically or functionally. For example, a promoter or regulatory DNA sequence is said to be "associated with" a DNA sequence that codes for an RNA or a protein if the two sequences are operatively linked, or situated such that the regulator DNA sequence will affect the expression level of the coding or structural DNA sequence.

Chimeric Gene: A recombinant DNA sequence in which a promoter or regulatory DNA sequence is operatively linked to, or associated with, a DNA sequence that codes for an mRNA or which is expressed as a protein, such that the regulator DNA sequence is able to regulate transcription or expression of the associated DNA sequence. The regulator DNA sequence of the chimeric gene is not normally operatively linked to the associated DNA sequence as found in nature.

Coding Sequence: a nucleic acid sequence that is transcribed into RNA such as mRNA, rRNA, tRNA, snRNA, sense RNA or antisense RNA. Preferably the RNA is then translated in an organism to produce a protein.

Complementary: refers to two nucleotide sequences that comprise antiparallel nucleotide sequences capable of pairing with one another upon formation of hydrogen bonds between the complementary base residues in the antiparallel nucleotide sequences.

Expression: refers to the transcription and/or translation of an endogenous gene or a transgene in plants. In the case of antisense constructs, for example, expression may refer to the transcription of the antisense DNA only.

Expression Cassette: A nucleic acid sequence capable of directing expression of a particular nucleotide sequence in an appropriate host cell, comprising a promoter operatively linked to the nucleotide sequence of interest which is operatively linked to termination signals. It also typically comprises sequences required for proper translation of the nucleotide sequence. The expression cassette comprising the nucleotide sequence of interest may be chimeric, meaning that at least one of its components is heterologous with respect to at least one of its other components. The expression cassette may also be one which is naturally occurring but has been obtained in a recombinant form useful for heterologous expression. Typically, however, the expression cassette is heterologous with respect to the host, i.e., the particular nucleic acid sequence of the expression cassette does not occur naturally in the host cell and must have been introduced into the host cell or an ancestor of the host cell by a transformation event. The expression of the nucleotide

sequence in the expression cassette may be under the control of a constitutive promoter or of an inducible promoter which initiates transcription only when the host cell is exposed to some particular external stimulus. In the case of a multicellular organism, such as a plant, the promoter can also be specific to a particular tissue, or organ, or stage of development.

Gene: A defined region that is located within a genome and that, besides the aforementioned coding nucleic acid sequence, comprises other, primarily regulatory, nucleic acid sequences responsible for the control of expression, i.e., transcription and translation of the coding portion. A gene may also comprise other 5' and 3' untranslated sequences and termination sequences. Further elements that may be present are, for example, introns.

Heterologous DNA Sequence: The terms "heterologous DNA sequence", "exogenous DNA segment" or "heterologous nucleic acid," as used herein, each refer to a sequence that originates from a source foreign to the particular host cell or, if from the same source, is modified from its original form. Thus, a heterologous gene in a host cell includes a gene that is endogenous to the particular host cell but has been modified through, for example, the use of DNA shuffling. The terms also includes non-naturally occurring multiple copies of a naturally occurring DNA sequence. Thus, the terms refer to a DNA segment that is foreign or heterologous to the cell, or homologous to the cell but in a position within the host cell nucleic acid in which the element is not ordinarily found. Exogenous DNA segments are expressed to yield exogenous polypeptides.

Homologous DNA Sequence: A DNA sequence naturally associated with a host cell into which it is introduced.

Isocoding: A nucleic acid sequence is isocoding with a reference nucleic acid sequence when the nucleic acid sequence encodes a polypeptide having the same amino acid sequence as the polypeptide encoded by the reference nucleic acid sequence.

Isolated: In the context of the present invention, an isolated nucleic acid molecule or an isolated enzyme is a nucleic acid molecule or enzyme that, by the hand of man, exists apart from its native environment and is therefore not a product of nature. An isolated nucleic acid molecule or enzyme may exist in a purified form or may exist in a non-native environment such as, for example, a recombinant host cell.

Minimal Promoter: a promoter element, particularly a TATA element, that is inactive or has greatly reduced promoter activity in the absence of upstream activation. In the presence of a suitable transcription factor, a minimal promoter functions to permit transcription.

Native: refers to a gene that is present in the genome of an untransformed cell.

Naturally occurring: the term "naturally occurring" is used to describe an object that can be found in nature as distinct from being artificially produced by man. For example, a protein or nucleotide sequence present in an organism (including a virus), which can be isolated from a source in nature and which has not been intentionally modified by man in the laboratory, is naturally occurring.

*NIM1*: Gene described in Ryals *et al.*, 1997, which is involved in the SAR signal transduction cascade.

NIM1: Protein encoded by the NIM1 gene

Nucleic acid: the term "nucleic acid" refers to deoxyribonucleotides or ribonucleotides and polymers thereof in either single- or double-stranded form. Unless specifically limited, the term encompasses nucleic acids containing known analogues of natural nucleotides which have similar binding properties as the reference nucleic acid and are metabolized in a manner similar to naturally occurring nucleotides. Unless otherwise indicated, a particular nucleic acid sequence also implicitly encompasses conservatively modified variants thereof (e.g. degenerate codon substitutions) and complementary sequences and as well as the sequence explicitly indicated. Specifically, degenerate codon substitutions may be achieved by generating sequences in which the third position of one or more selected (or all) codons is substituted with mixed-base and/or deoxyinosine residues (Batzer et al., Nucleic Acid Res. 19: 5081 (1991); Ohtsuka et al., J. Biol. Chem. 260: 2605-2608 (1985); Rossolini et al., Mol. Cell. Probes 8: 91-98 (1994)). The terms "nucleic acid" or "nucleic acid sequence" may also be used interchangeably with gene, cDNA, and mRNA encoded by a gene. In the context of the present invention, the nucleic acid molecule is preferably a segment of DNA. Nucleotides are indicated by their bases by the following standard abbreviations: adenine (A), cytosine (C), thymine (T), and guanine (G).

ORF: Open Reading Frame.

Plant: Any whole plant.

Plant Cell: Structural and physiological unit of a plant, comprising a protoplast and a cell wall. The plant cell may be in form of an isolated single cell or a cultured cell, or as a part of higher organized unit such as, for example, a plant tissue, a plant organ, or a whole plant.

Plant Cell Culture: Cultures of plant units such as, for example, protoplasts, cell culture cells, cells in plant tissues, pollen, pollen tubes, ovules, embryo sacs, zygotes and embryos at various stages of development.

Plant Material: Refers to leaves, stems, roots, flowers or flower parts, fruits, pollen, egg cells, zygotes, seeds, cuttings, cell or tissue cultures, or any other part or product of a plant.

Plant Organ: A distinct and visibly structured and differentiated part of a plant such as a root, stem, leaf, flower bud, or embryo.

Plant tissue: A group of plant cells organized into a structural and functional unit. Any tissue of a plant *in planta* or in culture is included. This term includes, but is not limited to, whole plants, plant organs, plant seeds, tissue culture and any groups of plant cells organized into structural and/or functional units. The use of this term in conjunction with, or in the absence of, any specific type of plant tissue as listed above or otherwise embraced by this definition is not intended to be exclusive of any other type of plant tissue.

Promoter: An untranslated DNA sequence upstream of the coding region that contains the binding site for RNA polymerase II and initiates transcription of the DNA. The promoter region may also include other elements that act as regulators of gene expression.

Protoplast: An isolated plant cell without a cell wall or with only parts of the cell wall.

Purified: the term "purified," when applied to a nucleic acid or protein, denotes that the nucleic acid or protein is essentially free of other cellular components with which it is associated in the natural state. It is preferably in a homogeneous state although it can be in either a dry or aqueous solution. Purity and homogeneity are typically determined using analytical chemistry techniques such as polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis or high performance liquid chromatography. A protein which is the predominant species present in a preparation is substantially purified. The term "purified" denotes that a nucleic acid or protein gives rise to essentially one band in an electrophoretic gel. Particularly, it means that the nucleic acid or protein is at least about 50% pure, more preferably at least about 85% pure, and most preferably at least about 99% pure.

Recombinant DNA molecule: a combination of DNA molecules that are joined together using recombinant DNA technology

Regulatory Elements: Sequences involved in controlling the expression of a nucleotide sequence. Regulatory elements comprise a promoter operably linked to the nucleotide sequence of interest and termination signals. They also typically encompass sequences required for proper translation of the nucleotide sequence.

Selectable marker gene: a gene whose expression in a plant cell gives the cell a selective advantage. The selective advantage possessed by the cells transformed with the selectable marker gene may be due to their ability to grow in the presence of a negative

selective agent, such as an antibiotic or a herbicide, compared to the growth of non-transformed cells. The selective advantage possessed by the transformed cells, compared to non-transformed cells, may also be due to their enhanced or novel capacity to utilize an added compound as a nutrient, growth factor or energy source. Selectable marker gene also refers to a gene or a combination of genes whose expression in a plant cell gives the cell both, a negative and a positive selective advantage.

Significant Increase: an increase in enzymatic activity that is larger than the margin of error inherent in the measurement technique, preferably an increase by about 2-fold or greater of the activity of the wild-type enzyme in the presence of the inhibitor, more preferably an increase by about 5-fold or greater, and most preferably an increase by about 10-fold or greater.

The terms "identical" or percent "identity" in the context of two or more nucleic acid or protein sequences, refer to two or more sequences or subsequences that are the same or have a specified percentage of amino acid residues or nucleotides that are the same, when compared and aligned for maximum correspondence, as measured using one of the following sequence comparison algorithms or by visual inspection.

Substantially identical: the phrase "substantially identical," in the context of two nucleic acid or protein sequences, refers to two or more sequences or subsequences that have at least 60%, preferably 80%, more preferably 90-95%, and most preferably at least 99% nucleotide or amino acid residue identity, when compared and aligned for maximum correspondence, as measured using one of the following sequence comparison algorithms or by visual inspection. Preferably, the substantial identity exists over a region of the sequences that is at least about 50 residues in length, more preferably over a region of at least about 100 residues, and most preferably the sequences are substantially identical over at least about 150 residues. In a most preferred embodiment, the sequences are substantially identical over the entire length of the coding regions. Furthermore, substantially identical nucleic acid or protein sequences perform substantially the same function.

For sequence comparison, typically one sequence acts as a reference sequence to which test sequences are compared. When using a sequence comparison algorithm, test and reference sequences are input into a computer, subsequence coordinates are designated if necessary, and sequence algorithm program parameters are designated. The sequence comparison algorithm then calculates the percent sequence identity for the test

sequence(s) relative to the reference sequence, based on the designated program parameters.

Optimal alignment of sequences for comparison can be conducted, e.g., by the local homology algorithm of Smith & Waterman, *Adv. Appl. Math.* 2: 482 (1981), by the homology alignment algorithm of Needleman & Wunsch, *J. Mol. Biol.* 48: 443 (1970), by the search for similarity method of Pearson & Lipman, *Proc. Nat'l. Acad. Sci. USA* 85: 2444 (1988), by computerized implementations of these algorithms (GAP, BESTFIT, FASTA, and TFASTA in the Wisconsin Genetics Software Package, Genetics Computer Group, 575 Science Dr., Madison, WI), or by visual inspection (*see generally*, Ausubel *et al.*, *infra*).

One example of an algorithm that is suitable for determining percent sequence identity and sequence similarity is the BLAST algorithm, which is described in Altschul et al., J. Mol. Biol. 215: 403-410 (1990). Software for performing BLAST analyses is publicly available through the National Center for Biotechnology Information (http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/). This algorithm involves first identifying high scoring sequence pairs (HSPs) by identifying short words of length W in the query sequence, which either match or satisfy some positive-valued threshold score T when aligned with a word of the same length in a database sequence. T is referred to as the neighborhood word score threshold (Altschul et al., 1990). These initial neighborhood word hits act as seeds for initiating searches to find longer HSPs containing them. The word hits are then extended in both directions along each sequence for as far as the cumulative alignment score can be increased. Cumulative scores are calculated using, for nucleotide sequences, the parameters M (reward score for a pair of matching residues; always > 0) and N (penalty score for mismatching residues; always < 0). For amino acid sequences, a scoring matrix is used to calculate the cumulative score. Extension of the word hits in each direction are halted when the cumulative alignment score falls off by the quantity X from its maximum achieved value, the cumulative score goes to zero or below due to the accumulation of one or more negative-scoring residue alignments, or the end of either sequence is reached. The BLAST algorithm parameters W, T, and X determine the sensitivity and speed of the alignment. The BLASTN program (for nucleotide sequences) uses as defaults a wordlength (W) of 11, an expectation (E) of 10, a cutoff of 100, M=5, N=-4, and a comparison of both strands. For amino acid sequences, the BLASTP program uses as defaults a wordlength (W) of 3, an expectation (E) of 10, and the BLOSUM62 scoring matrix (see Henikoff & Henikoff, Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA 89: 10915 (1989)).

In addition to calculating percent sequence identity, the BLAST algorithm also performs a statistical analysis of the similarity between two sequences (see, e.g., Karlin & Altschul, Proc. Nat'l. Acad. Sci. USA 90: 5873-5787 (1993)). One measure of similarity provided by the BLAST algorithm is the smallest sum probability (P(N)), which provides an indication of the probability by which a match between two nucleotide or amino acid sequences would occur by chance. For example, a test nucleic acid sequence is considered similar to a reference sequence if the smallest sum probability in a comparison of the test nucleic acid sequence to the reference nucleic acid sequence is less than about 0.1, more preferably less than about 0.01, and most preferably less than about 0.001.

Another indication that two nucleic acid sequences are substantially identical is that the two molecules hybridize to each other under stringent conditions. The phrase "hybridizing specifically to" refers to the binding, duplexing, or hybridizing of a molecule only to a particular nucleotide sequence under stringent conditions when that sequence is present in a complex mixture (e.g., total cellular) DNA or RNA. "Bind(s) substantially" refers to complementary hybridization between a probe nucleic acid and a target nucleic acid and embraces minor mismatches that can be accommodated by reducing the stringency of the hybridization media to achieve the desired detection of the target nucleic acid sequence.

"Stringent hybridization conditions" and "stringent hybridization wash conditions" in the context of nucleic acid hybridization experiments such as Southern and Northern hybridizations are sequence dependent, and are different under different environmental parameters. Longer sequences hybridize specifically at higher temperatures. An extensive guide to the hybridization of nucleic acids is found in Tijssen (1993) *Laboratory Techniques in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology-Hybridization with Nucleic* Acid Probes part I chapter 2 "Overview of principles of hybridization and the strategy of nucleic acid probe assays" Elsevier, New York. Generally, highly stringent hybridization and wash conditions are selected to be about 5°C lower than the thermal melting point (T<sub>m</sub>) for the specific sequence at a defined ionic strength and pH. Typically, under "stringent conditions" a probe will hybridize to its target subsequence, but to no other sequences.

The T<sub>m</sub> is the temperature (under defined ionic strength and pH) at which 50% of the target sequence hybridizes to a perfectly matched probe. Very stringent conditions are selected to be equal to the T<sub>m</sub> for a particular probe. An example of stringent hybridization conditions for hybridization of complementary nucleic acids which have more than 100 complementary residues on a filter in a Southern or northern blot is 50% formamide with 1 mg of heparin at 42°C, with the hybridization being carried out overnight. An example of

highly stringent wash conditions is 0.1 5M NaCl at 72°C for about 15 minutes. An example of stringent wash conditions is a 0.2x SSC wash at 65°C for 15 minutes (see, Sambrook, infra, for a description of SSC buffer). Often, a high stringency wash is preceded by a low stringency wash to remove background probe signal. An example medium stringency wash for a duplex of, e.g., more than 100 nucleotides, is 1x SSC at 45°C for 15 minutes. An example low stringency wash for a duplex of, e.g., more than 100 nucleotides, is 4-6x SSC at 40°C for 15 minutes. For short probes (e.g., about 10 to 50 nucleotides), stringent conditions typically involve salt concentrations of less than about 1.0M Na ion, typically about 0.01 to 1.0 M Na ion concentration (or other salts) at pH 7.0 to 8.3, and the temperature is typically at least about 30°C. Stringent conditions can also be achieved with the addition of destabilizing agents such as formamide. In general, a signal to noise ratio of 2x (or higher) than that observed for an unrelated probe in the particular hybridization assay indicates detection of a specific hybridization. Nucleic acids that do not hybridize to each other under stringent conditions are still substantially identical if the proteins that they encode are substantially identical. This occurs, e.g., when a copy of a nucleic acid is created using the maximum codon degeneracy permitted by the genetic code.

The following are examples of sets of hybridization/wash conditions that may be used to clone homologous nucleotide sequences that are substantially identical to reference nucleotide sequences of the present invention: a reference nucleotide sequence preferably hybridizes to the reference nucleotide sequence in 7% sodium dodecyl sulfate (SDS), 0.5 M NaPO<sub>4</sub>, 1 mM EDTA at 50°C with washing in 2X SSC, 0.1% SDS at 50°C, more desirably in 7% sodium dodecyl sulfate (SDS), 0.5 M NaPO<sub>4</sub>, 1 mM EDTA at 50°C with washing in 1X SSC, 0.1% SDS at 50°C, more desirably still in 7% sodium dodecyl sulfate (SDS), 0.5 M NaPO<sub>4</sub>, 1 mM EDTA at 50°C, preferably in 7% sodium dodecyl sulfate (SDS), 0.5 M NaPO<sub>4</sub>, 1 mM EDTA at 50°C with washing in 0.1X SSC, 0.1% SDS at 50°C, more preferably in 7% sodium dodecyl sulfate (SDS), 0.5 M NaPO<sub>4</sub>, 1 mM EDTA at 50°C with washing in 0.1X SSC, 0.1% SDS at 50°C, more preferably in 7% sodium dodecyl sulfate (SDS), 0.5 M NaPO<sub>4</sub>, 1 mM EDTA at 50°C with washing in 0.1X SSC, 0.1% SDS at 65°C.

A further indication that two nucleic acid sequences or proteins are substantially identical is that the protein encoded by the first nucleic acid is immunologically cross reactive with, or specifically binds to, the protein encoded by the second nucleic acid. Thus, a protein is typically substantially identical to a second protein, for example, where the two proteins differ only by conservative substitutions.

The phrase "specifically (or selectively) binds to an antibody," or "specifically (or selectively) immunoreactive with," when referring to a protein or peptide, refers to a binding

reaction which is determinative of the presence of the protein in the presence of a heterogeneous population of proteins and other biologics. Thus, under designated immunoassay conditions, the specified antibodies bind to a particular protein and do not bind in a significant amount to other proteins present in the sample. Specific binding to an antibody under such conditions may require an antibody that is selected for its specificity for a particular protein. For example, antibodies raised to the protein with the amino acid sequence encoded by any of the nucleic acid sequences of the invention can be selected to obtain antibodies specifically immunoreactive with that protein and not with other proteins except for polymorphic variants. A variety of immunoassay formats may be used to select antibodies specifically immunoreactive with a particular protein. For example, solid-phase ELISA immunoassays, Western blots, or immunohistochemistry are routinely used to select monoclonal antibodies specifically immunoreactive with a protein. See Harlow and Lane (1988) Antibodies, A Laboratory Manual, Cold Spring Harbor Publications, New York "Harlow and Lane"), for a description of immunoassay formats and conditions that can be used to determine specific immunoreactivity. Typically a specific or selective reaction will be at least twice background signal or noise and more typically more than 10 to 100 times background.

"Conservatively modified variations" of a particular nucleic acid sequence refers to those nucleic acid sequences that encode identical or essentially identical amino acid sequences, or where the nucleic acid sequence does not encode an amino acid sequence, to essentially identical sequences. Because of the degeneracy of the genetic code, a large number of functionally identical nucleic acids encode any given polypeptide. For instance the codons CGT, CGC, CGA, CGG, AGA, and AGG all encode the amino acid arginine. Thus, at every position where an arginine is specified by a codon, the codon can be altered to any of the corresponding codons described without altering the encoded protein. Such nucleic acid variations are "silent variations" which are one species of "conservatively modified variations." Every nucleic acid sequence described herein which encodes a protein also describes every possible silent variation, except where otherwise noted. One of skill will recognize that each codon in a nucleic acid (except ATG, which is ordinarily the only codon for methionine) can be modified to yield a functionally identical molecule by standard techniques. Accordingly, each "silent variation" of a nucleic acid which encodes a protein is implicit in each described sequence.

Furthermore, one of skill will recognize that individual substitutions deletions or additions that alter, add or delete a single amino acid or a small percentage of amino acids

(typically less than 5%, more typically less than 1%) in an encoded sequence are "conservatively modified variations," where the alterations result in the substitution of an amino acid with a chemically similar amino acid. Conservative substitution tables providing functionally similar amino acids are well known in the art. The following five groups each contain amino acids that are conservative substitutions for one another: Aliphatic: Glycine (G), Alanine (A), Valine (V), Leucine (L), Isoleucine (I); Aromatic: Phenylalanine (F), Tyrosine (Y), Tryptophan (W); Sulfur-containing: Methionine (M), Cysteine (C); Basic: Arginine (R), Lysine (K), Histidine (H); Acidic: Aspartic acid (D), Glutamic acid (E), Asparagine (N), Glutamine (Q). See also, Creighton (1984) Proteins, W.H. Freeman and Company. In addition, individual substitutions, deletions or additions which alter, add or delete a single amino acid or a small percentage of amino acids in an encoded sequence are also "conservatively modified variations."

A "subsequence" refers to a sequence of nucleic acids or amino acids that comprise a part of a longer sequence of nucleic acids or amino acids (e.g., protein) respectively.

Nucleic acids are "elongated" when additional nucleotides (or other analogous molecules) are incorporated into the nucleic acid. Most commonly, this is performed with a polymerase (e.g., a DNA polymerase), e.g., a polymerase which adds sequences at the 3' terminus of the nucleic acid.

Two nucleic acids are "recombined" when sequences from each of the two nucleic acids are combined in a progeny nucleic acid. Two sequences are "directly" recombined when both of the nucleic acids are substrates for recombination. Two sequences are "indirectly recombined" when the sequences are recombined using an intermediate such as a cross-over oligonucleotide. For indirect recombination, no more than one of the sequences is an actual substrate for recombination, and in some cases, neither sequence is a substrate for recombination.

A "specific binding affinity" between two molecules, for example, a ligand and a receptor, means a preferential binding of one molecule for another in a mixture of molecules. The binding of the molecules can be considered specific if the binding affinity is about 1 x 10<sup>4</sup> M<sup>-1</sup> to about 1 x 10<sup>6</sup> M<sup>-1</sup> or greater.

Transformation: a process for introducing heterologous DNA into a host cell or organism.

"Transformed," "transgenic," and "recombinant" refer to a host organism such as a bacterium or a plant into which a heterologous nucleic acid molecule has been introduced. The nucleic acid molecule can be stably integrated into the genome of the host or the nucleic acid

molecule can also be present as an extrachromosomal molecule. Such an extrachromosomal molecule can be auto-replicating. Transformed cells, tissues, or plants are understood to encompass not only the end product of a transformation process, but also transgenic progeny thereof. A "non-transformed," "non-transgenic," or "non-recombinant" host refers to a wild-type organism, e.g., a bacterium or plant, which does not contain the heterologous nucleic acid molecule.

The following material has been deposited with the Agricultural Research Service, Patent Culture Collection (NRRL), 1815 North University Street, Peoria, Illinois 61604, USA, under the terms of the Budapest Treaty on the International Recognition of the Deposit of Microorganisms for the Purposes of Patent Procedure. All restrictions on the availability of the deposited material will be irrevocably removed upon the granting of a patent.

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The present invention concerns monocotyledonous *NIM1* homologues, such as those isolated from *Triticum aestivum* (wheat) and *Oryza sativa* (rice). As described more fully below in the Examples, monocotyledonous *NIM1* homologues according to the invention may be isolated from cDNA and/or genomic DNA libraries by probing with fragments of the tobacco *NIM1* cDNA described in WO 00/53762, the disclosure of which is hereby incorporated by reference in its entirety.

In addition, *NIM1* homologues according to the invention can be isolated from cDNA and/or genomic DNA libraries from monocotyledonous plants by PCR amplification using primers constructed based on the *NIM1* sequences from *Arabidopsis thaliana*, *Nicotiana tabacum*, and *Lycopersicon esculentum*, as well as the *NML* sequences from *Arabidopsis thaliana* (see, Example 5: "Design of Degenerate Primers" in WO 00/53762).

Furthermore, monocotyledonous *NIM1* homologues according to the invention can be isolated by PCR using the wheat and rice sequences set forth in the attached sequence listing as the basis for constructing PCR primers. For example, the first and last 20-25 consecutive nucleotides of SEQ ID NO:19 (e.g., nucleotides 1-20 and 1649-1668 of SEQ ID NO:19) can be used as the basis for constructing PCR primers to amplify the cDNA sequence (SEQ ID NO:19) directly from a cDNA library from the source plant (wheat). Other DNA sequences of the invention can likewise be amplified by PCR from cDNA or genomic DNA libraries of monocotyledonous plants using the ends of the DNA sequences set forth in the sequence listing as the basis for PCR primers.

Monocotyledonous *NIM1* homologues, such as the wheat and rice *NIM1* homologues described herein, are predicted to encode proteins involved in the signal transduction cascade responsive to biological and chemical inducers, which leads to systemic acquired resistance in plants. The present invention also concerns the transgenic expression of a monocotyledonous *NIM1* homologue in plants to increase SAR gene expression and enhance disease resistance.

The transgenic expression of a monocotyledonous NIM1 homologue of the invention in plants is predicted to result in immunity to a wide array of plant pathogens, which include. but are not limited to viruses or viroids, e.g. tobacco or cucumber mosaic virus, ringspot virus or necrosis virus, pelargonium leaf curl virus, red clover mottle virus, tomato bushy stunt virus, and like viruses; fungi, e.g. oomycetes such as Phythophthora parasitica and Peronospora tabacina; bacteria, e.g. Pseudomonas syringae and Pseudomonas tabaci, insects such as aphids, e.g. Myzus persicae; and lepidoptera, e.g., Heliothus spp.; and nematodes, e.g., Meloidogyne incognita. The vectors and methods of the invention are useful against a number of disease organisms of maize including but not limited to downy mildews such as Scleropthora macrospora, Sclerophthora rayissiae, Sclerospora graminicola, Peronosclerospora sorghi, Peronosclerospora philippinensis, Peronosclerospora sacchari and Peronosclerospora maydis; rusts such as Puccinia sorphi, Puccinia polysora and Physopella zeae; other fungi such as Cercospora zeae-maydis, Colletotrichum graminicola, Fusarium monoliforme, Gibberella zeae, Exserohilum turcicum, Kabatiellu zeae, Erysiphe graminis, Septoria and Bipolaris maydis; and bacteria such as Erwinia stewartii.

The methods of the present invention can be utilized to confer disease resistance to a wide variety of plants, including gymnosperms, monocots, and dicots. Although disease resistance can be conferred upon any plants falling within these broad classes, it is

particularly useful in agronomically important crop plants, such as rice, wheat, barley, rye, rape, com, potato, carrot, sweet potato, sugar beet, bean, pea, chicory, lettuce, cabbage, cauliflower, broccoli, turnip, radish, spinach, asparagus, onion, garlic, eggplant, pepper, celery, carrot, squash, pumpkin, zucchini, cucumber, apple, pear, quince, melon, plum, cherry, peach, nectarine, apricot, strawberry, grape, raspberry, blackberry, pineapple, avocado, papaya, mango, banana, soybean, tobacco, tomato, sorghum and sugarcane.

A monocotyledonous *NIM1* homologue coding sequence of the present invention may be inserted into an expression cassette designed for plants to construct a chimeric gene according to the invention using standard genetic engineering techniques. The choice of specific regulatory sequences such as promoter, signal sequence, 5' and 3' untranslated sequences, and enhancer appropriate for the achieving the desired pattern and level of expression in the chosen plant host is within the level of skill of the routineer in the art. The resultant molecule, containing the individual elements linked in proper reading frame, may be inserted into a vector capable of being transformed into a host plant cell.

Examples of promoters capable of functioning in plants or plant cells (i.e., those capable of driving expression of associated coding sequences such as those coding for NIM1 homologues in plant cells) include the *Arabidopsis* and maize ubiquitin promoters; cauliflower mosaic virus (CaMV) 19S or 35S promoters and CaMV double promoters; rice actin promoters; PR-1 promoters from tobacco, *Arabidopsis*, or maize; nopaline synthase promoters; small subunit of ribulose bisphosphate carboxylase (ssuRUBISCO) promoters, and the like. Especially preferred is the *Arabidopsis* ubiquitin promoter. The promoters themselves may be modified to manipulate promoter strength to increase expression of the associated coding sequence in accordance with art-recognized procedures. Preferred promoters for use with the present invention are those that confer high level constitutive expression.

Signal or transit peptides may be fused to the monocotyledonous *NIM1* homologue coding sequence in the chimeric DNA constructs of the invention to direct transport of the expressed protein to the desired site of action. Examples of signal peptides include those natively linked to the plant pathogenesis-related proteins, e.g. PR-1, PR-2, and the like. *See, e.g.*, Payne *et al.*, 1988. Examples of transit peptides include the chloroplast transit peptides such as those described in Von Heijne *et al.* (1991), *Mazur et al.* (1987), and Vorst *et al.* (1988); and mitochondrial transit peptides such as those described in Boutry *et al.* (1987). Also included are sequences that result in localization of the encoded protein to

various cellular compartments such as the vacuole. See, for example, Neuhaus *et al.* (1991) and Chrispeels (1991).

The chimeric DNA construct(s) of the invention may contain multiple copies of a promoter or multiple copies of a monocotyledonous *NIM1* homologue coding sequence of the present invention. In addition, the construct(s) may include coding sequences for markers and coding sequences for other peptides such as signal or transit peptides, each in proper reading frame with the other functional elements in the DNA molecule. The preparation of such constructs are within the ordinary level of skill in the art.

Useful markers include peptides providing herbicide, antibiotic or drug resistance, such as, for example, resistance to protoporphyrinogen oxidase inhibitors, hygromycin, kanamycin, G418, gentamycin, lincomycin, methotrexate, glyphosate, phosphinothricin, or the like. These markers can be used to select cells transformed with the chimeric DNA constructs of the invention from untransformed cells. Other useful markers are peptidic enzymes which can be easily detected by a visible reaction, for example a color reaction, for example luciferase, β-glucuronidase, or β-galactosidase.

Chimeric genes designed for plant expression such as those described herein can be introduced into the plant cell in a number of art-recognized ways. Those skilled in the art will appreciate that the choice of method might depend on the type of plant (i.e. monocot or dicot) and/or organelle (i.e. nucleus, chloroplast, mitochondria) targeted for transformation. Suitable methods of transforming plant cells include microinjection (Crossway et al., 1986), electroporation (Riggs et al., 1986), Agrobacterium mediated transformation (Hinchee et al., 1988; Ishida et al., 1996), direct gene transfer (Paszkowski et al., 1984; Hayashimoto et al., 1990), and ballistic particle acceleration using devices available from Agracetus, Inc., Madison, Wisconsin and Dupont, Inc., Wilmington, Delaware (see, for example, U.S. Patent 4,945,050; and McCabe et al., 1988). See also, Weissinger et al. (1988); Sanford et al. (1987) (onion); Christou et al. (1988) (soybean); McCabe et al. (1988) (soybean); Datta et al. (1990) (rice), Klein *et al.* (1988) (maize); Klein *et al.* (1988) (maize); Klein *et al.* (1988) (maize); Fromm et al. (1990); and Gordon-Kamm et al. (1990) (maize); Svab et al. (1990) (tobacco chloroplasts); Gordon-Kamm *et al.* (1993) (maize); Shimamoto *et al.* (1989) (rice); Christou et al. (1991) (rice); Datta et al. (1990) (rice); European Patent Application EP 0 332 581 (orchardgrass and other Pooideae); Vasil et al. (1993) (wheat), Weeks et al. (1993) (wheat); Wan et al. (1994) (barley); Jahne et al. (1994) (barley); Umbeck et al. (1987) (cotton); Casas et al. (1993) (sorghum); Somers et al. (1992) (oats); Torbert et al. (1995) (oats); Weeks et al., (1993) (wheat); WO 94/13822 (wheat); and Nehra et al. (1994) (wheat).

A particularly preferred set of embodiments for the introduction of recombinant DNA molecules into maize by microprojectile bombardment can be found in Koziel *et al.* (1993); Hill *et al.* (1995) and Koziel *et al.* (1996). An additional preferred embodiment is the protoplast transformation method for maize as disclosed in EP 0 292 435.

Once a chimeric gene comprising a monocotyledonous *NIM1* homologue coding sequence has been transformed into a particular plant species, it may be propagated in that species or moved into other varieties of the same species, particularly including commercial varieties, using traditional breeding techniques. Particularly preferred plants of the invention include the agronomically important crops listed above. The genetic properties engineered into the transgenic seeds and plants described above are passed on by sexual reproduction and can thus be maintained and propagated in progeny plants.

#### **EXAMPLES**

The invention is illustrated in further detail by the following detailed procedures, preparations, and examples. The examples are for illustration only, and are not to be construed as limiting the scope of the present invention. Standard recombinant DNA and molecular cloning techniques used here are well known in the art and are described by Sambrook, *et al.*, 1989; by T.J. Silhavy, M.L. Berman, and L.W. Enquist, 1984; and by Ausubel, F.M. *et al.*, 1987.

I. Isolation of Homologues of the Arabidopsis NIM1 Gene from Monocotyledonous Plants

#### Example 1: Isolation of a NIM1 Homologue from Triticum aestivum (Wheat)

A custom genomic DNA library from *Triticum aestivum* (cv UC703) is constructed in EMBL3 SP6/T7 vectors (Clontech). The library (1x10<sup>6</sup> pfu) is screened following the protocol of Clontech Laboratories. Two different fragments of the tobacco *NIM1* cDNA (pNOV1206 - SEQ ID NO:1 of WO 00/53762) are used as probes: the 5'-*NIM1* fragment (nucleotide seq. 1-790; 0.8 kb *Accl/Eco*Rl fragment isolated from pNOV1206) and the 3'-*NIM1* fragment (nucleotide seq. 1176-1770; 0.6 kb *Kpnl/Hind*III fragment isolated from pNOV1206). Plaque lifts, each containing 50,000 clones, a total of 1x 10<sup>6</sup> clones (nitrocellulose membranes, NEN), are made in duplicate from 10 phage plates and each probe is hybridized to 10 membranes. The probe is labeled with P32-dCTP using the method of Prime-ItR II Random Primer Labeling (Stratagene). Hybridization is preferably carried out at 58°C in hybridization buffer (6xSSPE, 5xDenhards, 0.5% SDS, 100 μg stDNA/ml), and washings are preferably conducted in (I): 2xSSPE, SDS 0.1%, room temperature 10 min, (II): 2xSSPE, SDS 0.1% at 55°C 15 min, and (III) 1xSSPE, SDS 0.1% at 55°C 15 min, twice for each washing. A total of nine positive clones are isolated by two additional rounds of plaque purification.

Lambda phage DNA is isolated from K802 lysates according to Zabarovsky and Turina, 1988. Among nine positive candidates, six hybridize to both 3'-NIM1 and 5'- NIM1 probes by Southern blotting of restriction digested lambda DNA. Hybridizing DNA fragments are then cloned into pUC19 vector (NEB).

DNA sequence of clone HW01 is determined by primer walking using 18-mers designed on the ABI 3948 DNA Synthesizer. HW01 template is sequenced with Big Dye Terminator Sequencing Reactions, using 400ng template per reaction. Cycle conditions are according to the DT 50-30 Program: 95°C - 10 sec, 50°C - 5 sec, 60°C - 4 min for 29 cycles. Following the thermal cycle condition program, the reactions are precipitated with isopropanol. Samples are loaded onto a polyacrylamide gel and analyzed on the ABI 377 Automated Sequencer.

The HW01 template is also subjected to a Primer Island protocol whereby template is prepared on the Qiagen Robot and sequenced in a 96-well Marsh plate block format. Primers used for the plate sequencing are forward and reverse primers from the Primer Island Kit. Sequencing data is analyzed and assembled using Phred/Phrap and Consed Programs.

One of the subcloned DNA sequences from part of lambda clone #8, named pHW01, bears a 4270 bp *Sac*l insert and is identified as a wheat homologue of the *Arabidopsis NIM1* gene (Ryals *et al.*, 1997). Translated amino acid sequence of the wheat *NIM1* homologue is based on inverted sequence of HW01 (i-HW01) in which the orientation of the *NIM1* homologue is the same as the *Arabidopsis NIM1* sequence. The wheat NIM1 amino acid sequence has 77/68% amino acid similarity/identity to the tobacco NIM1 homologue shown as SEQ ID NO:1 of WO 00/53762, 78/68% to the tomato NIM1 homologue shown as SEQ ID NO:3 of WO 00/53762, 65/51% to *Arabidopsis* NIM1 (Ryals *et al.*, 1997), and 69%, 69%, and 59% nucleotide similarity to the tobacco, tomato, and *Arabidopsis NIM1* genes, respectively (see, Table 1 and Table 2, below).

Table 1. Amino Acid Comparison (Similarity/Identity) of NIM1 Homologues

	Wheat	Tobacco	Tomato	Arabidopsis
Wheat	100			
Tobacco	77/68	100		
Tomato	78/68	93/90	100	
Arabidopsis 65/51		65/54	66/55	100

Table 2. Nucleotide Comparison (Identity) of NIM1 Homologues

	Wheat	Tobacco	Tomato	Arabidopsis
Wheat	100			
Tobacco	69	100		
Tomato	69	90	100	
Arabidopsis 59		63	62	100

The genomic sequence of the wheat *NIM1* homologue is shown in SEQ ID NO:1 and the encoded protein sequence is shown in SEQ ID NO:2. The wheat *NIM1* homologue comprising SEQ ID NO:1 was deposited in *E. coli* DH5α as pHW01 with the NRRL (Agricultural Research Service, Patent Culture Collection, Northern Regional Research Center, 1815 North University Street, Peoria, Illinois 61604, U.S.A) on July 1, 1999, and assigned accession no. NRRL B-30152.

#### Example 2: PCR Amplification of the Wheat NIM1 Homologue

PCR is used to confirm that the wheat *NIM1* homologue originates from the wheat genome. Primers KL1 (19nt, 5'-CCATTGCTACTCTTGCCTC-3' (SEQ ID NO:3)) and KL2 (21nt, 5'-ATCGTTGTCTCCCTTTTAACC-3' (SEQ ID NO:4)) corresponding to nucleotides 1871-1890 and nucleotides 2360-2340, respectively, from the pHW01 subclone sequence are used to prime PCR reactions using wheat UC703 genomic DNA as template. Cycling conditions are 94°C for 30 sec, 50°C for 30 sec, and 72°C for 30 sec, for a total of 35 cycles. A ~500 bp band is obtained and cloned. Sequencing of multiple clones with the correct sized insert reveal that three different sequences are amplified from the wheat genome. All three sequences are highly similar to each other, and one of the sequences aligns precisely with the corresponding region of HW01, indicating the HW01 in fact originates from the wheat genome. A wheat *NIM1* homologue according to the invention can therefore be isolated by PCR from a wheat genomic library using the above-described PCR primers, KL1 and KL2.

Example 3: **Isolation of Monocotyledonous** *NIM1* **Homologues by Southern Hybridization** 

DNA from a monocotyledonous plant is isolated using the miniprep method of Dellaporta *et al.* (1983). Southern blotting is performed according to the standard protocol (Amersharm). The DNA sequence of the wheat *NIM1* homologue corresponding to the *NIM1*-specific "NIM loop" (nucleotides 2180-3251 of i-HW01, a 1.1 kb *Ndel/Bgl*II fragment isolated from pHW01) is hybridized to genomic DNA of wheat (cv. UC703) and other monocotyledonous crops (e.g., rice, barley and corn). Hybridization is preferably performed at 65°C in 5xSSPE, 5xDenhards, 0.5% SDS, 100 µg stDNA/ml, and washing is preferably (I): 2xSSPE, SDS 0.1%, room temperature 10 min, (II): 0.2xSSPE, SDS 0.1% at 65°C 15 min, and (III) 0.1xSSPE, SDS 0.1% at 65°C 15 min, twice for each washing. The monocotyledonous crops tested show strong hybridization signals to the wheat *NIM1* sequence, indicating the presence of *NIM1* homologues in these crops. Hybridization signals in wheat genomic DNA indicate that at least four *NIM1* homologues are present in the wheat genome.

The PCR product from wheat genomic DNA that is obtained with PCR primers KL1 and KL2 (SEQ ID NO:3 and SEQ ID NO:4, respectively) is used to probe gel blots of wheat RNA. Hybridization with total RNA reveals one faint transcript. However, hybridization with polyA<sup>+</sup> RNA reveals the presence of two transcripts: a smaller, more abundant mRNA transcript and a larger, less abundant mRNA. The smaller transcript corresponds to the size detected in total RNA. Both transcripts appear to be present in equal abundance in RNA isolated from leaf tissue from young wheat plants that are untreated or BTH-treated for 24h. The wheat "NIM loop" described above is also used as a probe.

# Example 4: Isolation of *NIM1* Homologues by PCR from Genomic DNA Libraries of Monocotyledonous Crops

Primers KL1 and KL2 (SEQ ID NO:3 and SEQ ID NO:4, respectively) are used to clone *NIM1* homologues from other monocotyledonous crops. Using the same cycling conditions as used for wheat genomic DNA amplification (Example 2), bands of approximately 500 bp in size are amplified from rice, corn, and barley genomic DNA libraries. The PCR products from the rice DNA are cloned and sequenced. All sequenced clones are found to contain the same insert, and the sequence of the insert shows strong similarity to the *Arabidopsis NIM1* gene and its crop homologues, indicating that a rice homologue of *NIM1* has been cloned.

# Example 5: Isolation of *NIM1* Homologues by PCR from cDNA Libraries of Monocotyledonous Crops

Degenerate PCR primers are designed based on conserved regions discovered by using the GCG Seqweb multiple sequence alignment program (Pretty, Wisconsin Genetics Computer Group) to align the *Arabidopsis NIM1* gene (Ryals *et al.*, 1997); the *Arabidopsis thaliana NIM-*like (*NML*) genomic sequences *AtNMLc5*, *AtNMLc2*, *AtNMLc4-1*, and *AtNMLc4-2*, and the *NIM1* sequences from *Nicotiana tabacum* and *Lycopersicon esculentum* (See WO 00/53762). Based on this alignment, degenerate PCR primers are designed for PCR amplification of *NIM1* homologues from other crop species including wheat and rice. Two of the primers designed from these conserved regions are listed below in Table 3. Primers are preferably synthesized by Genosys Biotechnologies, Inc. (The Woodlands, Texas). Positions of degeneracy are indicated in Table 3 by the notation of more than one base at a single site in the oligonucleotide. "Orientation" designates whether the primer is directed towards the 3' end (Downstream) or the 5' end (Upstream) of the cDNA.

Table 3: Degenerate Primers

Primer	Sequence (5' to 3')				SEQ ID NO:	Orientation	
NIM 2B	GGCACTGGACTCAGATGATGTTGAACT					SEQ ID NO:5	Downstream
	T	T	$\mathbf{T}$		GT		1
NIM 2D	AGTTGAGCAAGGCCAACTCGATTTTCAAAAT					SEQ ID NO:6	Upstream
	Т	C	A	${f T}$	GG		
	1		${f T}$				}

NIM1 homologue DNA fragments are amplified from wheat and rice using cDNA as template. Degenerate primer PCR is preferably performed with Ready-To-Go PCR Beads (Amersham, Piscataway, NJ) in a GeneAmp PCR System 9700 (PE Applied Biosystems, Foster City, CA). 5 to 10 ng of cDNA is used in each reaction, with each primer at a final concentration of 0.8 μΜ. Preferable cycling parameters are as follows: 94°C for 1 minute; 3 cycles of [94°C for 30 seconds; 37°C for 30 seconds; 72°C for 2 minutes]; 35 cycles of [94°C for 30 seconds; 60°C for 30 seconds; 72°C for 2 minutes]; 72°C for 7 minutes; 4°C hold. Reaction products are analyzed on 2% agarose gels and DNA fragments of the appropriate size are excised. DNA fragments are isolated from agarose bands using, for example, the Geneclean III Kit (BIO 101, Inc., Carlsbad, CA) and cloned using, for example,

the TOPO TA Cloning Kit (Invitrogen Corporation, Carlsbad, CA). Plasmids are isolated using, for example, the CONCERT Rapid Plasmid Miniprep System (Life Technologies, Inc., Rockville, MD) and sequenced by standard protocols.

Using primers 2B and 2D, two unique *NIM1* homologue DNA fragments are amplified from the rice cDNA library (SEQ ID NO:7 and 9) and one unique *NIM1* homologue DNA fragment is amplified from the wheat cDNA library (SEQ ID NO:11).

# Example 6: Full-Length Monocotyledous NIM1 Homologue cDNA's

Corresponding cDNA sequences upstream and downstream from the *NIM1* homologue PCR fragments are preferably obtained by RACE PCR using the SMART RACE cDNA Amplification Kit (Clontech, Palo Alto, CA). Preferably, at least three independent RACE products are sequenced for each 5'- or 3'-end in order to eliminate PCR errors. A full-length rice *NIM1* homologue cDNA sequence corresponding to the PCR fragment shown in SEQ ID NO:7 is presented as SEQ ID NO:13; a *NIM1* homologue rice cDNA sequence corresponding to the PCR fragment shown in SEQ ID NO:9 is presented as SEQ ID NO:15; and a full-length wheat *NIM1* homologue cDNA sequence corresponding to the PCR fragment shown in SEQ ID NO:17.

A full-length wheat *NIM1* homologue cDNA sequence corresponding to the wheat *NIM1* genomic sequence pHW01 (SEQ ID NO:1) is preferably obtained by RACE PCR and is presented as SEQ ID NO:19. (The 3' end of SEQ ID NO:19 is from a cDNA prediction program.)

#### II. Expression of the Gene Sequences of the Invention In Plants

A monocotyledonous *NIM1* homologue of the present invention can be incorporated into plant cells using conventional recombinant DNA technology. Generally, this involves inserting a coding sequence of the invention into an expression system to which the coding sequence is heterologous (i.e., not normally present) using standard cloning procedures known in the art. The vector contains the necessary elements for the transcription and translation of the inserted protein-coding sequences. A large number of vector systems known in the art can be used, such as plasmids, bacteriophage viruses and other modified viruses. Suitable vectors include, but are not limited to, viral vectors such as lambda vector

systems λgtl1, λgtl0 and Charon 4; plasmid vectors such as pBl121, pBR322, pACYC177, pACYC184, pAR series, pKK223-3, pUC8, pUC9, pUC18, pUC19, pLG339, pRK290, pKC37, pKC101, pCDNAll; and other similar systems. The components of the expression system may also be modified to increase expression. For example, truncated sequences, nucleotide substitutions or other modifications may be employed. The expression systems described herein can be used to transform virtually any crop plant cell under suitable conditions. Transformed cells can be regenerated into whole plants such that the monocotyledonous *NIM1* homologue plays a role in increasing SAR gene expression and enhancing disease resistance in the transgenic plants.

#### **Example 7: Construction of Plant Expression Cassettes**

Coding sequences intended for expression in transgenic plants are first assembled in expression cassettes behind a suitable promoter expressible in plants. The expression cassettes may also comprise any further sequences required or selected for the expression of the transgene. Such sequences include, but are not restricted to, transcription terminators, extraneous sequences to enhance expression such as introns, vital sequences, and sequences intended for the targeting of the gene product to specific organelles and cell compartments. These expression cassettes can then be easily transferred to the plant transformation vectors described below. The following is a description of various components of typical expression cassettes.

#### 1. Promoters

The selection of the promoter used in expression cassettes will determine the spatial and temporal expression pattern of the transgene in the transgenic plant. Selected promoters will express transgenes in specific cell types (such as leaf epidermal cells, mesophyll cells, root cortex cells) or in specific tissues or organs (roots, leaves or flowers, for example) and the selection will reflect the desired location of accumulation of the gene product. Alternatively, the selected promoter may drive expression of the gene under various inducing conditions. Promoters vary in their strength, i.e., ability to promote transcription. Depending upon the host cell system utilized, any one of a number of suitable promoters can be used, including the gene's native promoter. The following are non-limiting examples of promoters that may be used in expression cassettes.

#### a. Constitutive Expression, the Ubiquitin Promoter.

Ubiquitin is a gene product known to accumulate in many cell types and its promoter has been cloned from several species for use in transgenic plants (*e.g.* sunflower - Binet *et al.*, 1991; maize - Christensen *et al.*, 1989; and *Arabidopsis* - Norris *et al.*, 1993). The maize ubiquitin promoter has been developed in transgenic monocot systems and its sequence and vectors constructed for monocot transformation are disclosed in the patent publication EP 0 342 926 (to Lubrizol). Taylor *et al.* (1993) describe a vector (pAHC25) that comprises the maize ubiquitin promoter and first intron and its high activity in cell suspensions of numerous monocotyledons when introduced via microprojectile bombardment. The *Arabidopsis* ubiquitin promoter is especially preferred for use with the *NIM1* homologues of the present invention. The ubiquitin promoter is suitable for gene expression in transgenic plants, both monocotyledons and dicotyledons. Suitable vectors are derivatives of pAHC25 or any of the transformation vectors described in this application, modified by the introduction of the appropriate ubiquitin promoter and/or intron sequences.

#### b. Constitutive Expression, the CaMV 35S Promoter:

Construction of the plasmid pCGN1761 is described in the published patent application EP 0 392 225 (Example 23). pCGN1761 contains the "double" CaMV 35S promoter and the tml transcriptional terminator with a unique EcoRI site between the promoter and the terminator and has a pUC-type backbone. A derivative of pCGN1761 is constructed which has a modified polylinker which includes Notl and Xhol sites in addition to the existing EcoRI site. This derivative is designated pCGN1761ENX, pCGN1761ENX is useful for the cloning of cDNA sequences or coding sequences (including microbial ORF sequences) within its polylinker for the purpose of their expression under the control of the 35S promoter in transgenic plants. The entire 35S promoter-coding sequence-tml terminator cassette of such a construction can be excised by HindIII, Sphl, Sall, and Xbal sites 5' to the promoter and Xbal, BamHI and Ball sites 3' to the terminator for transfer to transformation vectors such as those described below. Furthermore, the double 35S promoter fragment can be removed by 5' excision with HindIII, SphI, SalI, XbaI, or PstI, and 3' excision with any of the polylinker restriction sites (EcoRI, NotI or XhoI) for replacement with another promoter. If desired, modifications around the cloning sites can be made by the introduction of sequences that may enhance translation. This is particularly useful when overexpression is desired. For example, pCGN1761ENX may be modified by optimization of the translational initiation site as described in Example 37 of U.S. Patent No. 5,639,949.

#### c. Constitutive Expression, the Actin Promoter:

Several isoforms of actin are known to be expressed in most cell types and consequently the actin promoter is a good choice for a constitutive promoter. In particular, the promoter from the rice Actl gene has been cloned and characterized (McElroy et al., 1990). A 1.3kb fragment of the promoter was found to contain all the regulatory elements required for expression in rice protoplasts. Furthermore, numerous expression vectors based on the ActI promoter have been constructed specifically for use in monocotyledons (McElroy et al., 1991). These incorporate the Actl-intron 1, Adhl 5' flanking sequence and Adhl-intron 1 (from the maize alcohol dehydrogenase gene) and sequence from the CaMV 35S promoter. Vectors showing highest expression were fusions of 35S and Actt intron or the Actl 5' flanking sequence and the Actl intron. Optimization of sequences around the initiating ATG (of the GUS reporter gene) also enhanced expression. The promoter expression cassettes described by McElroy et al. (1991) can be easily modified for gene expression and are particularly suitable for use in monocotyledonous hosts. For example, promoter-containing fragments is removed from the McElroy constructions and used to replace the double 35S promoter in pCGN1761ENX, which is then available for the insertion of specific gene sequences. The fusion genes thus constructed can then be transferred to appropriate transformation vectors. In a separate report, the rice Actl promoter with its first intron has also been found to direct high expression in cultured barley cells (Chibbar et al., 1993).

#### d. Inducible Expression, the PR-1 Promoter:

The double 35S promoter in pCGN1761ENX may be replaced with any other promoter of choice that will result in suitably high expression levels. By way of example, one of the chemically regulatable promoters described in U.S. Patent No. 5,614,395 may replace the double 35S promoter. The promoter of choice is preferably excised from its source by restriction enzymes, but can alternatively be PCR-amplified using primers that carry appropriate terminal restriction sites. Should PCR-amplification be undertaken, then the promoter should be re-sequenced to check for amplification errors after the cloning of the amplified promoter in the target vector. The chemically/pathogen regulatable tobacco PR-1a promoter is cleaved from plasmid pClB1004 (for construction, see example 21 of EP 0 332 104) and transferred to plasmid pCGN1761ENX (Uknes *et al.*, 1992). pClB1004 is cleaved with *Ncol* and the resultant 3' overhang of the linearized fragment is rendered

blunt by treatment with T4 DNA polymerase. The fragment is then cleaved with *HindIII* and the resultant PR-1a promoter-containing fragment is gel purified and cloned into pCGN1761ENX from which the double 35S promoter has been removed. This is done by cleavage with *XhoI* and blunting with T4 polymerase, followed by cleavage with *HindIII* and isolation of the larger vector-terminator containing fragment into which the pCIB1004 promoter fragment is cloned. This generates a pCGN1761ENX derivative with the PR-1a promoter and the *tmI* terminator and an intervening polylinker with unique *EcoRI* and *NotI* sites. The selected coding sequence can be inserted into this vector, and the fusion products (*i.e.* promoter-gene-terminator) can subsequently be transferred to any selected transformation vector, including those described *infra*. Various chemical regulators may be employed to induce expression of the selected coding sequence in the plants transformed according to the present invention, including the benzothiadiazole, isonicotinic acid, and salicylic acid compounds disclosed in U.S. Patent Nos. 5,523,311 and 5,614,395.

# e. Inducible Expression, an Ethanol-Inducible Promoter:

A promoter inducible by certain alcohols or ketones, such as ethanol, may also be used to confer inducible expression of a coding sequence of the present invention. Such a promoter is for example the *alcA* gene promoter from *Aspergillus nidulans* (Caddick *et al.*, 1998). In *A. nidulans*, the *alcA* gene encodes alcohol dehydrogenase I, the expression of which is regulated by the AlcR transcription factors in presence of the chemical inducer. For the purposes of the present invention, the CAT coding sequences in plasmid palcA:CAT comprising a *alcA* gene promoter sequence fused to a minimal 35S promoter (Caddick *et al.*, 1998) are replaced by a coding sequence of the present invention to form an expression cassette having the coding sequence under the control of the *alcA* gene promoter. This is carried out using methods well known in the art.

#### f. Inducible Expression, a Glucocorticoid-Inducible Promoter:

Induction of expression of a NIM1 homologue of the present invention using systems based on steroid hormones is also contemplated. For example, a glucocorticoid-mediated induction system is used (Aoyama and Chua, 1997) and gene expression is induced by application of a glucocorticoid, for example a synthetic glucocorticoid, preferably dexamethasone, preferably at a concentration ranging from 0.1mM to 1mM, more preferably from 10mM to 100mM. For the purposes of the present invention, the luciferase gene sequences are replaced by a gene sequence encoding a NIM1 homologue to form an

expression cassette having the gene sequence encoding a NIM1 homologue under the control of six copies of the GAL4 upstream activating sequences fused to the 35S minimal promoter. This is carried out using methods well known in the art. The trans-acting factor comprises the GAL4 DNA-binding domain (Keegan *et al.*, 1986) fused to the transactivating domain of the herpes viral protein VP16 (Triezenberg *et al.*, 1988) fused to the hormone-binding domain of the rat glucocorticoid receptor (Picard *et al.*, 1988). The expression of the fusion protein is controlled by any promoter suitable for expression in plants known in the art or described here. This expression cassette is also comprised in the plant comprising the gene sequence encoding a NIM1 homologue fused to the 6xGAL4/minimal promoter. Thus, tissue- or organ-specificity of the fusion protein is achieved leading to inducible tissue- or organ-specificity of the NIM1 homologue.

#### g. Root Specific Expression:

Another pattern of gene expression is root expression. A suitable root promoter is described by de Framond (1991) and also in the published patent application EP 0 452 269. This promoter is transferred to a suitable vector such as pCGN1761ENX for the insertion of a selected gene and subsequent transfer of the entire promoter-gene-terminator cassette to a transformation vector of interest.

#### h. Wound-Inducible Promoters:

Wound-inducible promoters may also be suitable for gene expression. Numerous such promoters have been described (*e.g.* Xu *et al.*, 1993); Logemann *et al.*, 1989; Rohmeier & Lehle, 1993; Firek *et al.*, 1993; Warner *et al.*, 1993) and all are suitable for use with the instant invention. Logemann *et al.* describe the 5' upstream sequences of the dicotyledonous potato *wunl* gene. Xu *et al.* show that a wound-inducible promoter from the dicotyledon potato (*pin2*) is active in the monocotyledon rice. Further, Rohmeier & Lehle describe the cloning of the maize *Wipl* cDNA which is wound induced and which can be used to isolate the cognate promoter using standard techniques. Similar, Firek *et al.* and Warner *et al.* have described a wound-induced gene from the monocotyledon *Asparagus officinalis*, which is expressed at local wound and pathogen invasion sites. Using cloning lechniques well known in the art, these promoters can be transferred to suitable vectors, fused to the genes pertaining to this invention, and used to express these genes at the sites of plant wounding.

# i. Pith-Preferred Expression:

Patent Application WO 93/07278 describes the isolation of the maize *trpA* gene, which is preferentially expressed in pith cells. The gene sequence and promoter extending up to -1726 bp from the start of transcription are presented. Using standard molecular biological techniques, this promoter, or parts thereof, can be transferred to a vector such as pCGN1761 where it can replace the 35S promoter and be used to drive the expression of a foreign gene in a pith-preferred manner. In fact, fragments containing the pith-preferred promoter or parts thereof can be transferred to any vector and modified for utility in transgenic plants.

# j. Leaf-Specific Expression:

A maize gene encoding phosphoenol carboxylase (PEPC) has been described by Hudspeth & Grula (1989). Using standard molecular biological techniques the promoter for this gene can be used to drive the expression of any gene in a leaf-specific manner in transgenic plants.

#### k. Pollen-Specific Expression:

WO 93/07278 describes the isolation of the maize calcium-dependent protein kinase (CDPK) gene which is expressed in pollen cells. The gene sequence and promoter extend up to 1400 bp from the start of transcription. Using standard molecular biological techniques, this promoter or parts thereof, can be transferred to a vector such as pCGN1761 where it can replace the 35S promoter and be used to drive the expression of a NIM1 homologue of the present invention in a pollen-specific manner.

#### 2. Transcriptional Terminators

A variety of transcriptional terminators are available for use in expression cassettes. These are responsible for the termination of transcription beyond the transgene and its correct polyadenylation. Appropriate transcriptional terminators are those that are known to function in plants and include the CaMV 35S terminator, the *tml* terminator, the nopaline synthase terminator and the pea *rbcS* E9 terminator. These can be used in both monocotyledons and dicotyledons. In addition, a gene's native transcription terminator may be used.

# 3. Sequences for the Enhancement or Regulation of Expression

Numerous sequences have been found to enhance gene expression from within the transcriptional unit and these sequences can be used in conjunction with the genes of this invention to increase their expression in transgenic plants.

Various intron sequences have been shown to enhance expression, particularly in monocotyledonous cells. For example, the introns of the maize *Adhl* gene have been found to significantly enhance the expression of the wild-type gene under its cognate promoter when introduced into maize cells. Intron 1 was found to be particularly effective and enhanced expression in fusion constructs with the chloramphenicol acetyltransferase gene (Callis *et al.*, 1987). In the same experimental system, the intron from the maize *bronze1* gene had a similar effect in enhancing expression. Intron sequences have been routinely incorporated into plant transformation vectors, typically within the non-translated leader.

A number of non-translated leader sequences derived from viruses are also known to enhance expression, and these are particularly effective in dicotyledonous cells. Specifically, leader sequences from Tobacco Mosaic Virus (TMV, the "W-sequence"), Maize Chlorotic Mottle Virus (MCMV), and Alfalfa Mosaic Virus (AMV) have been shown to be effective in enhancing expression (e.g. Gallie et al., 1987; Skuzeski et al., 1990).

# 4. Targeting of the Gene Product Within the Cell

Various mechanisms for targeting gene products are known to exist in plants and the sequences controlling the functioning of these mechanisms have been characterized in some detail. For example, the targeting of gene products to the chloroplast is controlled by a signal sequence found at the amino terminal end of various proteins which is cleaved during chloroplast import to yield the mature protein (*e.g.* Comai *et al.*, 1988). These signal sequences can be fused to heterologous gene products to effect the import of heterologous products into the chloroplast (van den Broeck, *et al.*, 1985). DNA encoding for appropriate signal sequences can be isolated from the 5' end of the cDNAs encoding the RUBISCO protein, the CAB protein, the EPSP synthase enzyme, the GS2 protein and many other proteins which are known to be chloroplast localized. *See also*, the section entitled "Expression With Chloroplast Targeting" in Example 37 of U.S. Patent No. 5,639,949.

Other gene products are localized to other organelles such as the mitochondrion and the peroxisome (e.g. Unger et al., 1989). The cDNAs encoding these products can also be manipulated to effect the targeting of heterologous gene products to these organelles. Examples of such sequences are the nuclear-encoded ATPases and specific aspartate

amino transferase isoforms for mitochondria. Targeting cellular protein bodies has been described by Rogers *et al.* (1985).

In addition, sequences have been characterized which cause the targeting of gene products to other cell compartments. Amino terminal sequences are responsible for targeting to the ER, the apoplast, and extracellular secretion from aleurone cells (Koehler & Ho, 1990). Additionally, amino terminal sequences in conjunction with carboxy terminal sequences are responsible for vacuolar targeting of gene products (Shinshi *et al.*, 1990).

By the fusion of the appropriate targeting sequences described above to transgene sequences of interest it is possible to direct the transgene product to any organelle or cell compartment. For chloroplast targeting, for example, the chloroplast signal sequence from the RUBISCO gene, the CAB gene, the EPSP synthase gene, or the GS2 gene is fused in frame to the amino terminal ATG of the transgene. The signal sequence selected should include the known cleavage site, and the fusion constructed should take into account any amino acids after the cleavage site which are required for cleavage. In some cases this requirement may be fulfilled by the addition of a small number of amino acids between the cleavage site and the transgene ATG or, alternatively, replacement of some amino acids within the transgene sequence. Fusions constructed for chloroplast import can be tested for efficacy of chloroplast uptake by *in vitro* translation of *in vitro* transcribed constructions followed by *in vitro* chloroplast uptake using techniques described by Bartlett *et al.* (1982) and Wasmann *et al.* (1986). These construction techniques are well known in the art and are equally applicable to mitochondria and peroxisomes.

The above-described mechanisms for cellular targeting can be utilized not only in conjunction with their cognate promoters, but also in conjunction with heterologous promoters so as to effect a specific cell-targeting goal under the transcriptional regulation of a promoter that has an expression pattern different to that of the promoter from which the targeting signal derives.

### **Example 8: Construction of Plant Transformation Vectors**

Numerous transformation vectors available for plant transformation are known to those of ordinary skill in the plant transformation arts, and the genes pertinent to this

invention can be used in conjunction with any such vectors. The selection of vector will depend upon the preferred transformation technique and the target species for transformation. For certain target species, different antibiotic or herbicide selection markers may be preferred. Selection markers used routinely in transformation include the *nptll* gene, which confers resistance to kanamycin and related antibiotics (Messing & Vierra, 1982; Bevan *et al.*, 1983), the *bar* gene, which confers resistance to the herbicide phosphinothricin (White *et al.*, 1990; Spencer *et al.*, 1990), the *hph* gene, which confers resistance to the antibiotic hygromycin (Blochinger & Diggelmann), and the *dhfr* gene, which confers resistance to methatrexate (Bourouis *et al.*, 1983), and the EPSPS gene, which confers resistance to glyphosate (U.S. Patent Nos. 4,940,935 and 5,188,642).

# 1. Vectors Suitable for Agrobacterium Transformation

Many vectors are available for transformation using *Agrobacterium tumefaciens*. These typically carry at least one T-DNA border sequence and include vectors such as pBIN19 (Bevan, Nucl. Acids Res. (1984)) and pXYZ. Below, the construction of two typical vectors suitable for *Agrobacterium* transformation is described.

#### a. pClB200 and pClB2001:

The binary vectors pclB200 and pclB2001 are used for the construction of recombinant vectors for use with *Agrobacterium* and are constructed in the following manner. pTJS75kan is created by *Narl* digestion of pTJS75 (Schmidhauser & Helinski, 1985) allowing excision of the tetracycline-resistance gene, followed by insertion of an *Accl* fragment from pUC4K carrying an NPTII (Messing & Vierra, 1982; Bevan *et al.*, 1983; McBride *et al.*, 1990). *Xhol* linkers are ligated to the *EcoRV* fragment of PCIB7 which contains the left and right T-DNA borders, a plant selectable *nos/nptII* chimeric gene and the pUC polylinker (Rothstein *et al.*, 1987), and the *Xhol*-digested fragment are cloned into *Sall*-digested pTJS75kan to create pclB200 (see also EP 0 332 104, example 19). pclB200 contains the following unique polylinker restriction sites: *EcoRI*, *SstI*, *KpnI*, *BglII*, *XbaI*, and *SalI*. pclB2001 is a derivative of pclB200 created by the insertion into the polylinker of additional restriction sites. Unique restriction sites in the polylinker of pclB2001 are *EcoRI*, *SstI*, *KpnI*, *BglII*, *XbaI*, *SalI*, *MluI*, *BcII*, *AvrII*, *ApaI*, *HpaI*, and *StuI*. pclB2001, in addition to containing these unique restriction sites also has plant and bacterial kanamycin selection, left and right T-DNA borders for *Agrobacterium*-mediated

transformation, the RK2-derived *trfA* function for mobilization between *E. coli* and other hosts, and the *OriT* and *OriV* functions also from RK2. The pClB2001 polylinker is suitable for the cloning of plant expression cassettes containing their own regulatory signals.

#### b. pCIB10 and Hygromycin Selection Derivatives thereof:

The binary vector pCIB10 contains a gene encoding kanamycin resistance for selection in plants and T-DNA right and left border sequences and incorporates sequences from the wide host-range plasmid pRK252 allowing it to replicate in both *E. coli* and *Agrobacterium*. Its construction is described by Rothstein *et al.* (1987). Various derivatives of pCIB10 are constructed which incorporate the gene for hygromycin B phosphotransferase described by Gritz *et al.*, 1983). These derivatives enable selection of transgenic plant cells on hygromycin only (pCIB743), or hygromycin and kanamycin (pCIB715, pCIB717).

# 2. Vectors Suitable for non-Agrobacterium Transformation

Transformation without the use of *Agrobacterium tumefaciens* circumvents the requirement for T-DNA sequences in the chosen transformation vector and consequently vectors lacking these sequences can be utilized in addition to vectors such as the ones described above which contain T-DNA sequences. Transformation techniques that do not rely on *Agrobacterium* include transformation via particle bombardment, protoplast uptake (*e.g.* PEG and electroporation) and microinjection. The choice of vector depends largely on the preferred selection for the species being transformed. Below, the construction of typical vectors suitable for non-*Agrobacterium* transformation is described.

# a. pClB3064:

pCIB3064 is a pUC-derived vector suitable for direct gene transfer techniques in combination with selection by the herbicide basta (or phosphinothricin). The plasmid pCIB246 comprises the CaMV 35S promoter in operational fusion to the *E. coli* GUS gene and the CaMV 35S transcriptional terminator and is described in the PCT published application WO 93/07278. The 35S promoter of this vector contains two ATG sequences 5' of the start site. These sites are mutated using standard PCR techniques in such a way as to remove the ATGs and generate the restriction sites *Sspl* and *Pvull*. The new restriction sites are 96 and 37 bp away from the unique *Sall* site and 101 and 42 bp away from the actual start site. The resultant derivative of pCIB246 is designated pCIB3025. The GUS

gene is then excised from pClB3025 by digestion with *Sall* and *Sacl*, the termini rendered blunt and religated to generate plasmid pClB3060. The plasmid pJIT82 is obtained from the John Innes Centre, Norwich and the a 400 bp *Smal* fragment containing the *bar* gene from *Streptomyces viridochromogenes* is excised and inserted into the *Hpal* site of pClB3060 (Thompson *et al.*, 1987). This generated pClB3064, which comprises the *bar* gene under the control of the CaMV 35S promoter and terminator for herbicide selection, a gene for ampicillin resistance (for selection in *E. coli*) and a polylinker with the unique sites *Sphl*, *Pstl*, *HindIII*, and *BamHI*. This vector is suitable for the cloning of plant expression cassettes containing their own regulatory signals.

### b. pSOG19 and pSOG35:

pSOG35 is a transformation vector that utilizes the *E. coli* gene dihydrofolate reductase (DFR) as a selectable marker conferring resistance to methotrexate. PCR is used to amplify the 35S promoter (-800 bp), intron 6 from the maize Adh1 gene (-550 bp) and 18 bp of the GUS untranslated leader sequence from pSOG10. A 250-bp fragment encoding the *E. coli* dihydrofolate reductase type II gene is also amplified by PCR and these two PCR fragments are assembled with a *SacI-PstI* fragment from pB1221 (Clontech) which comprises the pUC19 vector backbone and the nopaline synthase terminator. Assembly of these fragments generates pSOG19 which contains the 35S promoter in fusion with the intron 6 sequence, the GUS leader, the DHFR gene and the nopaline synthase terminator. Replacement of the GUS leader in pSOG19 with the leader sequence from Maize Chlorotic Mottle Virus (MCMV) generates the vector pSOG35. pSOG19 and pSOG35 carry the pUC gene for ampicillin resistance and have *HindIII*, *SphI*, *PstI* and *EcoRI* sites available for the cloning of foreign substances.

#### **Example 9: Transformation**

Once the gene sequence of interest has been cloned into an expression system, it is transformed into a plant cell. Methods for transformation and regeneration of plants are well known in the art. For example, Ti plasmid vectors have been utilized for the delivery of foreign DNA, as well as direct DNA uptake, liposomes, electroporation, micro-injection, and microprojectiles. In addition, bacteria from the genus *Agrobacterium* can be utilized to transform plant cells. Below are descriptions of representative techniques for transforming both dicotyledonous and monocotyledonous plants.

# 1. Transformation of Dicotyledons

Transformation techniques for dicotyledons are well known in the art and include *Agrobacterium*-based techniques and techniques that do not require *Agrobacterium*. Non-*Agrobacterium* techniques involve the uptake of exogenous genetic material directly by protoplasts or cells. This can be accomplished by PEG or electroporation mediated uptake, particle bombardment-mediated delivery, or microinjection. Examples of these techniques are described by Paszkowski *et al.*, 1984; Potrykus *et al.*, 1985; Reich *et al.*, 1986; and Klein *et al.*, 1987. In each case the transformed cells are regenerated to whole plants using standard techniques known in the art.

Agrobacterium-mediated transformation is a preferred technique for transformation of dicotyledons because of its high efficiency of transformation and its broad utility with many different species. Agrobacterium transformation typically involves the transfer of the binary vector carrying the foreign DNA of interest (e.g. pClB200 or pClB2001) to an appropriate Agrobacterium strain which may depend of the complement of vir genes carried by the host Agrobacterium strain either on a co-resident Ti plasmid or chromosomally (e.g. strain ClB542 for pClB200 and pClB2001 (Uknes et al., 1993). The transfer of the recombinant binary vector to Agrobacterium is accomplished by a triparental mating procedure using E. coli carrying the recombinant binary vector, a helper E. coli strain which carries a plasmid such as pRK2013 and which is able to mobilize the recombinant binary vector to the target Agrobacterium strain. Alternatively, the recombinant binary vector can be transferred to Agrobacterium by DNA transformation (Höfgen & Willmitzer, 1988).

Transformation of the target plant species by recombinant *Agrobacterium* usually involves co-cultivation of the *Agrobacterium* with explants from the plant and follows protocols well known in the art. Transformed tissue is regenerated on selectable medium carrying the antibiotic or herbicide resistance marker present between the binary plasmid I-DNA borders.

Another approach to transforming plant cells with a gene involves propelling inert or biologically active particles at plant tissues and cells. This technique is disclosed in U.S. Patent Nos. 4,945,050, 5,036,006, and 5,100,792. Generally, this procedure involves propelling inert or biologically active particles at the cells under conditions effective to penetrate the outer surface of the cell and afford incorporation within the interior thereof. When inert particles are utilized, the vector can be introduced into the cell by coating the particles with the vector containing the desired gene. Alternatively, the target cell can be

surrounded by the vector so that the vector is carried into the cell by the wake of the particle. Biologically active particles (e.g., dried yeast cells, dried bacterium or a bacteriophage, each containing DNA sought to be introduced) can also be propelled into plant cell tissue.

# 2. Transformation of Monocotyledons

Transformation of most monocotyledon species has now also become routine. Preferred techniques include direct gene transfer into protoplasts using PEG or electroporation techniques, and particle bombardment into callus tissue. Transformations can be undertaken with a single DNA species or multiple DNA species (*i.e.* cotransformation) and both these techniques are suitable for use with this invention. Cotransformation may have the advantage of avoiding complete vector construction and of generating transgenic plants with unlinked loci for the gene of interest and the selectable marker, enabling the removal of the selectable marker in subsequent generations, should this be regarded desirable. However, a disadvantage of the use of co-transformation is the less than 100% frequency with which separate DNA species are integrated into the genome (Schocher *et al.*, 1986).

Patent Applications EP 0 292 435, EP 0 392 225, and WO 93/07278 describe techniques for the preparation of callus and protoplasts from an elite inbred line of maize, transformation of protoplasts using PEG or electroporation, and the regeneration of maize plants from transformed protoplasts. Gordon-Kamm *et al.* (1990) and Fromm *et al.* (1990) have published techniques for transformation of A188-derived maize line using particle bombardment. Furthermore, WO 93/07278 and Koziel *et al.* (1993) describe techniques for the transformation of elite inbred lines of maize by particle bombardment. This technique utilizes immature maize embryos of 1.5-2.5 mm length excised from a maize ear 14-15 days after pollination and a PDS-1000He Biolistics device for bombardment.

Transformation of rice can also be undertaken by direct gene transfer techniques utilizing protoplasts or particle bombardment. Protoplast-mediated transformation has been described for *Japonica*-types and *Indica*-types (Zhang *et al.*, 1988; Shimamoto *et al.*, 1989; Datta *et al.*, 1990). Both types are also routinely transformable using particle bombardment (Christou *et al.*, 1991). Furthermore, WO 93/21335 describes techniques for the transformation of rice via electroporation.

Patent Application EP 0 332 581 describes techniques for the generation, transformation and regeneration of Pooideae protoplasts. These techniques allow the

transformation of Dactylis and wheat. Furthermore, wheat transformation has been described by Vasil et al. (1992) using particle bombardment into cells of type C long-term regenerable callus, and also by Vasil et al. (1993) and Weeks et al. (1993) using particle bombardment of immature embryos and immature embryo-derived callus. A preferred technique for wheat transformation, however, involves the transformation of wheat by particle bombardment of immature embryos and includes either a high sucrose or a high maltose step prior to gene delivery. Prior to bombardment, any number of embryos (0.75-1 mm in length) are plated onto MS medium with 3% sucrose (Murashiga & Skoog, 1962) and 3 mg/l 2,4-D for induction of somatic embryos, which is allowed to proceed in the dark. On the chosen day of bombardment, embryos are removed from the induction medium and placed onto the osmoticum (i.e. induction medium with sucrose or maltose added at the desired concentration, typically 15%). The embryos are allowed to plasmolyze for 2-3 h and are then bombarded. Twenty embryos per target plate is typical, although not critical. An appropriate gene-carrying plasmid (such as pCIB3064 or pSG35) is precipitated onto micrometer size gold particles using standard procedures. Each plate of embryos is shot with the DuPont Biolistics® helium device using a burst pressure of ~1000 psi using a standard 80 mesh screen. After bombardment, the embryos are placed back into the dark to recover for about 24 h (still on osmoticum). After 24 hrs, the embryos are removed from the osmoticum and placed back onto induction medium where they stay for about a month before regeneration. Approximately one month later the embryo explants with developing embryogenic callus are transferred to regeneration medium (MS + 1 mg/liter NAA, 5 mg/liter GA), further containing the appropriate selection agent (10 mg/l basta in the case of pCIB3064 and 2 mg/l methotrexate in the case of pSOG35). After approximately one month, developed shoots are transferred to larger sterile containers known as "GA7s" which contain half-strength MS, 2% sucrose, and the same concentration of selection agent.

Tranformation of monocotyledons using *Agrobacterium* has also been described. *See*, WO 94/00977 and U.S. Patent No. 5,591,616.

III. Breeding and Seed Production

Example 10: Breeding

The plants obtained via tranformation with a gene of the present invention can be any of a wide variety of plant species, including those of monocots and dicots; however, the plants used in the method of the invention are preferably selected from the list of agronomically important target crops set forth *supra*. The expression of a gene of the present invention in combination with other characteristics important for production and quality can be incorporated into plant lines through breeding. Breeding approaches and techniques are known in the art. See, for example, Welsh J. R. (1981); Wood D. R. (Ed.) (1983); Mayo O. (1987); Singh, D.P. (1986); and Wricke and Weber (1986).

The genetic properties engineered into the transgenic seeds and plants described above are passed on by sexual reproduction or vegetative growth and can thus be maintained and propagated in progeny plants. Generally said maintenance and propagation make use of known agricultural methods developed to fit specific purposes such as tilling, sowing or harvesting. Specialized processes such as hydroponics or greenhouse technologies can also be applied. As the growing crop is vulnerable to attack and damages caused by insects or infections as well as to competition by weed plants, measures are undertaken to control weeds, plant diseases, insects, nematodes, and other adverse conditions to improve yield. These include mechanical measures such a tillage of the soil or removal of weeds and infected plants, as well as the application of agrochemicals such as herbicides, fungicides, gametocides, nematicides, growth regulants, ripening agents and insecticides.

Use of the advantageous genetic properties of the transgenic plants and seeds according to the invention can further be made in plant breeding, which aims at the development of plants with improved properties such as tolerance of pests, herbicides, or stress, improved nutritional value, increased yield, or improved structure causing less loss from lodging or shattering. The various breeding steps are characterized by well-defined human intervention such as selecting the lines to be crossed, directing pollination of the parental lines, or selecting appropriate progeny plants. Depending on the desired properties, different breeding measures are taken. The relevant techniques are well known in the art and include but are not limited to hybridization, inbreeding, backcross breeding, multiline breeding, variety blend, interspecific hybridization, aneuploid techniques, etc. Hybridization techniques also include the sterilization of plants to yield male or female sterile plants by mechanical, chemical, or biochemical means. Cross pollination of a male sterile plant with pollen of a different line assures that the genome of the male sterile but female fertile plant will uniformly obtain properties of both parental lines. Thus, the

transgenic seeds and plants according to the invention can be used for the breeding of improved plant lines, that for example, increase the effectiveness of conventional methods such as herbicide or pestidice treatment or allow one to dispense with said methods due to their modified genetic properties. Alternatively new crops with improved stress tolerance can be obtained, which, due to their optimized genetic "equipment", yield harvested product of better quality than products that were not able to tolerate comparable adverse developmental conditions.

## Example 11: Seed Production

In seeds production, germination quality and uniformity of seeds are essential product characteristics, whereas germination quality and uniformity of seeds harvested and sold by the farmer is not important. As it is difficult to keep a crop free from other crop and weed seeds, to control seedborne diseases, and to produce seed with good germination, fairly extensive and well-defined seed production practices have been developed by seed producers, who are experienced in the art of growing, conditioning and marketing of pure seed. Thus, it is common practice for the farmer to buy certified seed meeting specific quality standards instead of using seed harvested from his own crop. Propagation material to be used as seeds is customarily treated with a protectant coating comprising herbicides, insecticides, fungicides, bactericides, nematicides, molluscicides, or mixtures thereof. Customarily used protectant coatings comprise compounds such as captan, carboxin, thiram (TMTD<sup>®</sup>), methalaxyl (Apron<sup>®</sup>), and pirimiphos-methyl (Actellic<sup>®</sup>). If desired, these compounds are formulated together with further carriers, surfactants or applicationpromoting adjuvants customarily employed in the art of formulation to provide protection against damage caused by bacterial, fungal or animal pests. The protectant coatings may be applied by impregnating propagation material with a liquid formulation or by coating with a combined wet or dry formulation. Other methods of application are also possible such as treatment directed at the buds or the fruit.

It is a further aspect of the present invention to provide new agricultural methods, such as the methods examplified above, which are characterized by the use of transgenic plants, transgenic plant material, or transgenic seed according to the present invention.

The seeds may be provided in a bag, container or vessel comprised of a suitable packaging material, the bag or container capable of being closed to contain seeds. The bag, container or vessel may be designed for either short term or long term storage, or both,

of the seed. Examples of a suitable packaging material include paper, such as kraft paper, rigid or pliable plastic or other polymeric material, glass or metal. Desirably the bag, container, or vessel is comprised of a plurality of layers of packaging materials, of the same or differing type. In one embodiment the bag, container or vessel is provided so as to exclude or limit water and moisture from contacting the seed. In one example, the bag, container or vessel is sealed, for example heat sealed, to prevent water or moisture from entering. In another embodiment water absorbent materials are placed between or adjacent to packaging material layers. In yet another embodiment the bag, container or vessel, or packaging material of which it is comprised is treated to limit, suppress or prevent disease, contamination or other adverse affects of storage or transport of the seed. An example of such treatment is sterilization, for example by chemical means or by exposure to radiation. Comprised by the present invention is a commercial bag comprising seed of a transgenic plant comprising a gene of the present invention that is expressed in said transformed plant at higher levels than in a wild type plant, together with a suitable carrier, together with label instructions for the use thereof for conferring broad spectrum disease resistance to plants.

#### IV. Disease Resistance Evaluation

Disease resistance evaluation is performed by methods known in the art. *See*, Uknes *et al.* (1993); Görlach *et al.* (1996); Alexander *et al.* (1993). For example, several representative disease resistance assays are described below.

## Example 12: Phytophthora parasitica (Black Shank) Resistance Assay

Assays for resistance to *Phytophthora parasitica*, the causative organism of black shank, are performed on six-week-old plants grown as described in Alexander *et al.* (1993). Plants are watered, allowed to drain well, and then inoculated by applying 10 ml of a sporangium suspension (300 sporangia/ml) to the soil. Inoculated plants are kept in a greenhouse maintained at 23-25°C day temperature, and 20-22°C night temperature. The wilt index used for the assay is as follows: 0=no symptoms; 1=no symptoms; 1=some sign of wilting, with reduced turgidity; 2=clear wilting symptoms, but no rotting or stunting; 3=clear wilting symptoms with stunting, but no apparent stem rot; 4=severe wilting, with visible stem rot and some damage to root system; 5=as for 4, but plants near death or

dead, and with severe reduction of root system. All assays are scored blind on plants arrayed in a random design.

### Example 13: Pseudomonas syringae Resistance Assay

Pseudomonas syringae pv. tabaci strain #551 is injected into the two lower leaves of several 6-7-week-old plants at a concentration of  $10^6$  or  $3 \times 10^6$  per ml in  $H_20$ . Six individual plants are evaluated at each time point. Pseudomonas tabaci infected plants are rated on a 5 point disease severity scale, 5=100% dead tissue, 0=no symptoms. A T-test (LSD) is conducted on the evaluations for each day and the groupings are indicated after the Mean disease rating value. Values followed by the same letter on that day of evaluation are not statistically significantly different.

# Example 14: Cercospora nicotianae Resistance Assay

A spore suspension of *Cercospora nicotianae* (ATCC #18366) (100,000-150,000 spores per ml) is sprayed to imminent run-off onto the surface of the leaves. The plants are maintained in 100% humidity for five days. Thereafter the plants are misted with water 5-10 times per day. Six individual plants are evaluated at each time point. *Cercospora nicotianae* is rated on a % leaf area showing disease symptoms basis. A T-test (LSD) is conducted on the evaluations for each day and the groupings are indicated after the Mean disease rating value. Values followed by the same letter on that day of evaluation are not statistically significantly different.

#### Example 15: Peronospora parasitica Resistance Assay

Assays for resistance to *Peronospora parasitica* are performed on plants as described in Uknes *et al*, (1993). Plants are inoculated with a compatible isolate of *P. parasitica* by spraying with a conidial suspension (approximately 5 x 10<sup>4</sup> spores per milliliter). Inoculated plants are incubated under humid conditions at 17° C in a growth chamber with a 14-hr day/10-hr night cycle. Plants are examined at 3-14 days, preferably 7-12 days, after inoculation for the presence of conidiophores. In addition, several plants from each treatment are randomly selected and stained with lactophenol-trypan blue (Keogh *et al.*, 1980) for microscopic examination.

The above disclosed embodiments are illustrative. This disclosure of the invention will place one skilled in the art in possession of many variations of the invention. All such obvious and foreseeable variations are intended to be encompassed by the claims.

Applicant's or agent's	International application No
filereference A-31281A	

# INDICATIONS RELATING TO DEPOSITED MICROORGANISM OR OTHER BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL

(PCT Rule 13bis)

A. The indications made below relate to the deposited microorga	nism or other biological material referred to in the description
on page	<u> </u>
B. IDENTIFICATION OF DEPOSIT	Further deposits are identified on an additional sheet
Name of depositary institution Agricultural Research International Deposita	Service, Patent Culture Collection (NRRL) ry Authority
Address of depositary institution (including postal code and coun	try)
1815 North University Peoria, Illinois 61604 United States of Ameri	
Date of deposit	Accession Number
01 July 1999 (01.07.99)	NRRL B-30152
C. ADDITIONAL INDICATIONS (leave blank if not applicab	This information is continued on an additional sheet
D. DESIGNATED STATES FOR WHICH INDICATIONS A  E. SEPARATE FURNISHING OF INDICATIONS (leave bias)	RE MADE (if the indications are not for all designated States)
The indications listed below will be submitted to the International learning of Deposit")	Bureau later (specify the general nature of the indications e.g., "Accession
For receiving Office use only	For International Bureau use only
This sheet was received with the international application	This sheet was received by the International Bureau on:
Authorized officer	Authorized officer
NATHALIÉ KUIPER	

# What is Claimed is:

 An isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence from a monocotyledonous plant that is a homologue of the NIM1 gene.

- 2 An isolated nucleic acid molecule according to claim 1, comprising:
  - (a) a nucleotide sequence that encodes SEQ ID NO:2, 8, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18, or 20;
  - (b) SEQ ID NO:1, 7, 9, 11, 13, 15, 17, or 19;
  - (c) a nucleotide sequence that comprises an at least 20 consecutive base pair portion identical in sequence to an at least 20 consecutive base pair portion of SEQ ID NO:1, 7, 9, 11, 13, 15, 17, or 19;
  - (d) a nucleotide sequence that can be amplified from a monocotyledonous plant DNA library using the polymerase chain reaction with the pair of primers set forth as SEQ ID NO:3 and 4 or SEQ ID NO:5 and 6;
  - (e) a nucleotide sequence that can be amplified from a *Orzya sativa* DNA library using the polymerase chain reaction with the pair of primers set forth as SEQ ID NO:3 and 4 or SEQ ID NO:5 and 6;
  - (f) a nucleotide sequence that can be amplified from a *Triticum aestivum* DNA library using the polymerase chain reaction with the pair of primers set forth as SEQ ID NO:3 and 4 or SEQ ID NO:5 and 6;
  - (g) a nucleotide sequence that can be amplified from a monocotyledonous plant DNA library using the polymerase chain reaction with a pair of primers comprising the first 20 nucleotides and the reverse complement of the last 20 nucleotides of the coding sequence (CDS) of SEQ ID NO:1, 7, 9, 11, 13, 15, 17, or 19; or
  - (h) a nucleotide sequence that hybridizes to the complement of SEQ ID NO:1, 7, 9, 11, 13, 15, 17, or 19 under stringent hybridization and wash conditions.
- An isolated nucleic acid molecule according to claim 2, comprising a nucleotide sequence that encodes SEQ ID NO:2, 8, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18, or 20.
- 4. An isolated nucleic acid molecule according to claim 2, comprising SEQ ID NO:1, 7, 9, 11, 13, 15, 17, or 19.
- 5. An isolated nucleic acid molecule according to claim 2, comprising a nucleotide sequence that comprises an at least 20 consecutive base pair portion identical in sequence to an at least 20 consecutive base pair portion of SEQ ID NO:1, 7, 9, 11, 13, 15, 17, or 19.

6. An isolated nucleic acid molecule according to claim 2, comprising a nucleotide sequence that can be amplified from a monocotyledonous plant DNA library using the polymerase chain reaction with the pair of primers set forth as SEQ ID NO:3 and 4 or SEQ ID NO:5 and 6.

- 7. An isolated nucleic acid molecule according to claim 2, comprising a nucleotide sequence that can be amplified from a *Orzya sativa* DNA library using the polymerase chain reaction with the pair of primers set forth as SEQ ID NO:3 and 4 or SEQ ID NO:5 and 6.
- 8. An isolated nucleic acid molecule according to claim 2, comprising a nucleotide sequence that can be amplified from a *Triticum aestivum* DNA library using the polymerase chain reaction with the pair of primers set forth as SEQ ID NO:3 and 4 or SEQ ID NO:5 and 6.
- 9. An isolated nucleic acid molecule according to claim 2, comprising a nucleotide sequence that can be amplified from a monocotyledonous plant DNA library using the polymerase chain reaction with a pair of primers corresponding to the first 20 nucleotides and the reverse complement of the last 20 nucleotides of the coding sequence (CDS) of SEQ ID NO:1, 7, 9, 11, 13, 15, 17, or 19.
- 10. An isolated nucleic acid molecule according to claim 2, comprising a nucleotide sequence that hybridizes to the complement of SEQ ID NO:1, 7, 9, 11, 13, 15, 17, or 19 under stringent hybridization and wash conditions.
- 11. A chimeric gene comprising a promoter active in plants operatively linked to the nucleic acid molecule of claim 1.
- 12. A recombinant vector comprising the chimeric gene of claim 11.
- 13. A host cell comprising the chimeric gene of claim 11.
- 14. A plant comprising the chimeric gene of claim 13.
- 15. The plant of claim 14, which is a monocotyledonous plant.
- 16. The plant of claim 14, which is selected from the following: rice, wheat, barley, rye, corn, potato, canola, sunflower, carrot, sweet potato, sugarbeet, bean, pea, chicory, lettuce, cabbage, cauliflower, broccoli, turnip, radish, spinach, asparagus, onion, garlic, eggplant, pepper, celery, squash, pumpkin, cucumber, apple, pear, quince, melon, plum, cherry, peach, nectarine, apricot, strawberry, grape, raspberry, blackberry,

pineapple, avocado, papaya, mango, banana, soybean, tobacco, tomato, sorghum and sugarcane.

- 17. Seed from the plant of claim 14.
- 18. A method of increasing SAR gene expression in a plant, comprising expressing the chimeric gene of claim 11 in said plant.
- 19. A method of enhancing disease resistance in a plant, comprising expressing the chimeric gene of claim 11 in said plant.
- 20. A PCR primer that is SEQ ID NO:3 or SEQ ID NO:4.
- 21. A method for isolating a *NIM1* homologue involved in the signal transduction cascade leading to systemic acquired resistance in plants comprising amplifying a DNA molecule from a plant DNA library using the polymerase chain reaction with a pair of primers corresponding to the first 20 nucleotides and the reverse complement of the last 20 nucleotides of the coding sequence (CDS) of SEQ ID NO:1, 7, 9, 11, 13, 15, 17, or 19 or with the pair of primers set forth as SEQ ID NO:3 and 4 or SEQ ID NO:5 and 6.
- 22. The method of claim 21, wherein said plant DNA library is a *Oryza sativa* (rice) or *Triticum aestivum* (wheat) DNA library.

#### SEQUENCE LISTING

<110> Syngenta Participations AG <120> NOVEL MONOCOTYLEDONOUS PLANT GENES AND USES THERFOF <130> A-31281A <140> <141> <150> US 09/519233 <151> 2000-03-06 <160> 20 <170> PatentIn Ver. 2.2 <210> 1 <211> 4270 <212> DNA <213> Triticum aestivum <220> <221> exon <222> (1396)..(2163) <220> <221> intron <222> (2164) . (2337) <220> <221> exon <222> (2338)..(2532) <220> <221> intron <222> (2533)..(2933) <220> <221> exon <222> (2934)..(3188) <400> 1 gagetegeca acetetteca ggteegeete teeeteteee etteteetee atgatgettt 60 cttggtttca gacatttatt gtgcttgctg ggaatgcata tttgcgcgca cgttcttgtg 120 ctcagacage aaggtttaat getgtetttt etttetgeae geggggaegt tttetgtatg 180 eggeaaaaty ggettägäte eeettaeeat tielgetaaa tilaaleaat tieagtaett 240 ctgaaaaata gcgttaaaca ttggttagta ctagtacgtt ttgtcggtag caatgaggag 300 cttgtgctta tcatgtggtg atcttgaaat tggtgaagtt gtcaatggaa attgtacagt 360

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<212> PRT

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Arg Ser Asn Leu Asp Met Ile Thr Leu Glu Lys Ala Leu Pro Gln Asp 50 55 60

Val Ile Lys Gln Ile Thr Asp Leu Arg Ile Thr Leu Gly Leu Ala Ser 65 70 75 80

Pro Glu Asp Asn Gly Phe Pro Asn Lys His Val Arg Arg Ile Leu Arg 85 90 95

Ala Leu Asp Ser Asp Asp Val Glu Leu Val Arg Met Leu Leu Thr Glu Gly Gln Thr Asn Leu Asp Asp Ala Phe Ala Leu His Tyr Ala Val Glu 120 His Cys Asp Ser Lys Ile Thr Thr Glu Leu Leu Asp Ile Ala Leu Ala 135 Asp Val Asn Leu Arg Asn Pro Arg Gly Tyr Thr Val Leu His Ile Ala 150 155 Ala Lys Arg Arg Asp Pro Lys Ile Val Val Ser Leu Leu Thr Lys Gly 170 Ala Arg Pro Ser Asp Phe Thr Phe Asp Gly Arg Lys Ala Val Gln Ile Ser Lys Arg Leu Thr Lys His Gly Asp Tyr Phe Gly Asn Thr Glu Glu Gly Lys Pro Ser Pro Asn Asp Lys Leu Cys Ile Glu Ile Ieu Glu Gln 215 Ala Glu Arg Arg Asp Pro Gln Leu Gly Glu Ala Ser Leu Ser Leu Ala 230 235 Leu Ala Gly Asp Cys Leu Arg Gly Lys Leu Leu Tyr Leu Glu Asn Arg Val Ala Leu Ala Arg Ile Met Phe Pro Ile Glu Ala Arg Val Ala Met 265 Asp Ile Ala Gln Val Asp Gly Thr Leu Glu Phe Thr Leu Gly Ser Ser Thr Asn Pro Pro Leu Glu Ile Thr Thr Val Asp Leu Asn Asp Thr Ser 295 Phe Lys Met Lys Glu Glu His Leu Ala Arg Met Arg Ala Leu Ser Lys Thr Val Glu Leu Gly Lys Arg Phe Phe Pro Arg Cys Ser Asn Val Leu Asp Lys Ile Met Asp Asp Glu Pro Glu Leu Ala Ser Leu Gly Arg Asp Ala Ser Ser Glu Arg Lys Arg Arg Phe His Asp Leu Gln Asp Thr Leu 360 Leu Lys Ala Phe Ser Glu Asp Lys Glu Glu Phe Asn Arg Thr Thr 370 375 Leu Ser Ser Ser Ser Ser Thr Ser Thr Val Ala Arg Asn Leu Ala 390 395

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<210> 7

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	0> 1> C1 2> (2		(496	)											
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	gag Glu														97
	tgt Cys														145
	ttg Leu 50		_	_		_	_			_			_	_	193
	atg Met														241
	gct Ala														289
	cgg Arg														337
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	atg Met 130														433
	ttg Leu														481
	ggc Gly				ct										498

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<213> Oryza sativa

<400> 8

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Ser Glu Ile Thr Leu Asp Asp Ala Asn Ala Leu His Tyr Ala Ala Ala 20 25 30

Tyr Cys Asp Ser Lys Val Val Ser Glu Leu Leu Asp Leu Arg Leu Ala 35 40 45

Asn Leu Asn Leu Lys Asn Ser Arg Gly Tyr Thr Ala Leu His Leu Ala 50 60

Ala Met Arg Arg Glu Pro Ala Ile Ile Met Cys Leu Leu Asn Lys Gly 65 70 75 80

Ala Ala Val Ser Gln Leu Thr Ala Asp Gly Gln Ser Ala Met Ser Ile 85 90 95

Cys Arg Arg Leu Thr Arg Met Lys Asp Tyr Asn Thr Lys Met Glu Gln
100 105 110

Gly Gln Glu Ser Asn Lys Asp Arg Leu Cys Ile Asp Ile Leu Asp Arg 115 120 125

Glu Met Ile Arg Lys Pro Met Ala Val Glu Asp Ser Val Thr Ser Pro 130 135 140

Leu Leu Ala Asp Asp Leu His Met Lys Leu Leu Tyr Leu Glu Asn Arg 145 150 155 160

Val Gly Leu Ala Lys 165

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<220>

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gga cag aca aat ctt gat gat gcg ttt gca ctg cac tac gcc gtc gaa 97 Gly Gln Thr Asn Leu Asp Asp Ala Phe Ala Leu His Tyr Ala Val Glu 20 25 30

							acc Thr 40			_	_		_		_	1.45
~				_			aga Arg				_				_	193
							atc Ile									241
							ttc Phe									289
							ggg Gly	_				_		_	_	337
							agg Arg 120						_			385
							ctc Leu									433
							gga Gly		-	_			_		_	481
-		_	gct Ala		ct											498
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	> 10 Leu		Ser	Asp	Asp	Val	Glu	Leu	Val	Arg	Met	Leu	Leu	Thr	Glu	
1 C)v	Cln	Thr	Acn	5	۸۰۰۰	Nen	7.15	Dho	10	I on	uia	m	210	15 Vol.	G1	
ΟΤΆ	נועט	TIIL	20	मस्स् ।	usp	wsb	Ala	25	иα	ьеu	nıs	Tyr	30	vaı	GIU	
His	Cys	Asp 35	Ser	Lys	Ile	Thr	Thr 40	Glu	Leu	Leu	Asp	Leu 45	Ala	Ľеп	Ala	
Asp	Val 50	Asn	His	Arg	Asn	Pro 55	Arg	Gly	Tyr	Thr	Val 60	Leu	His	Ile	Ala	

Ala Arg Arg Arg Glu Pro Lys Ile Ile Val Ser Leu Leu Thr Lys Gly Ala Arg Pro Ala Asp Val Thr Phe Asp Gly Arg Lys Ala Val Gln Ile 90 Ser Lys Arg Leu Thr Lys Gln Gly Asp Tyr Phe Gly Val Thr Glu Glu 105 Gly Lys Pro Ser Pro Lys Asp Arg Leu Cys Ile Glu Ile Ieu Glu Gln Ala Glu Arg Arg Asp Pro Gln Leu Gly Glu Ala Ser Val Ser Leu Ala 135 Met Ala Gly Glu Ser Leu Arg Gly Arg Leu Leu Tyr Leu Glu Asn Arg Val Gly Leu Ala Gln <210> 11 <211> 498 <2.12> DNA <213> Triticum aestivum <220> <221> CDS <222> (2)..(496) <400> 11 g gea etg gat tea gat gat gtt gag ett gtg aag ttg ett ett aat gag 49 Ala Leu Asp Ser Asp Asp Val Glu Leu Val Lys Leu Leu Leu Asn Glu 97 tet gaa ate ace eta gae gee aac gea ttg eat tat get gea get Ser Glu Ile Thr Leu Asp Asp Ala Asn Ala Leu His Tyr Ala Ala Ala 25 tac tgc gat tot aaa gtt olt aca gag ttg tta ggc ctg gaa ott goo 145 Tyr Cys Asp Ser Lys Val Ien Thr Glu Ien Ieu Gly Leu Glu Leu Ala 40 aac ttg aat ttg aag aac agt cgt ggg tac aca gca ctc cac cta gct 193 Asn Leu Asn Leu Lys Asn Ser Arg Gly Tyr Thr Ala Leu His Leu Ala 55 get atg agg aga gaa eea get att att atg tgt ete tta age aaa gga 241 Ala Met Arg Arg Glu Pro Ala Ile Ile Met Cys Leu Leu Ser Lys Gly gca gtg gcg tcg caa ttg aca gat gat ggc cgc ctt gca agt aat att 289 Ala Val Ala Ser Gln Leu Thr Asp Asp Gly Arg Leu Ala Ser Asn Ile 85 90

tgt cga aga tta aca aga cta aaa gat tac aat gca aag atg gag cag Cys Arg Arg Leu Thr Arg Leu Lys Asp Tyr Asm Ala Lys Met Glu Gln 100 105 110	337
ggc caa gag tca aat aaa gat agg atg tgc att gac atc cta gag agg Gly Gln Glu Ser Asn Lys Asp Arg Met Cys Ile Asp Ile Leu Glu Arg 115 120 125	385
gag atg atg agg aat cct atg aca gcg gaa gat tca gtc acc tca cct Clu Met Met Arg Asn Pro Met Thr Ala Glu Asp Ser Val Thr Ser Pro 130 135 140	433
tta ttg gct gat gat ctt cac atg aaa cta agc tac ctt gaa aat cga Leu Leu Ala Asp Asp Leu His Met Lys Leu Ser Tyr Leu Glu Asn Arg 145 150 150 160	481
gtt ggc ctt gct caa ct Val Gly Leu Ala Gln 165	498
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Ser Glu Ile Thr Leu Asp Asp Ala Asn Ala Leu His Tyr Ala Ala Ala 20 25 30	
Tyr Cys Asp Ser Lys Val Leu Thr Glu Leu Leu Gly Leu Glu Leu Ala 35 40 45	
Asn Leu Asn Leu Lys Asn Ser Arg Gly Tyr Thr Ala Leu His Leu Ala 50 55 60	
Ala Met Arg Arg Glu Pro Ala Ile Ile Met Cys Leu Leu Ser Lys Gly 65 70 75 80	
Ala Val Ala Ser Gln Leu Thr Asp Asp Gly Arg Leu Ala Ser Asm Tle 85 90. 95	
Cys Arg Arg Leu Thr Arg Leu Lys Asp Tyr Asn Ala Lys Met Glu Gln 100 105 110	
Gly Gln Glu Ser Asn Lys Asp Arg Met Cys Ile Asp Ile Leu Glu Arg 115 120 125	
Glu Met Met Arg Asn Pro Met Thr Ala Glu Asp Ser Val Thr Ser Pro 130 135 140	

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Val Gly Leu Ala Gln 165

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<220>

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cetecactee ggeogetege gaggatagaa aaggatttet tittetetet etetetetee 180

ccctctctcc gagatccgtt tcccaaacag gcygggggtc gaaagtgttt ggtactttgg 240

tttggggage ttgtttgeeg aegeggatet gegtggagae gageagaggg gggagegeeg 300

gaattgggtg gtttggcccg ggaggcgccg gaaagtgggg gagcctttgg attccccgaa 360

cccgccatgg tgatccggca cgagtagtag tggtggtggt ggtattagta gcagtgag 418

atg ccg gcg cgt agc gcg gtg gtg gta ata gcc atg gag ccc tcg tcg 466 Met Pro Ala Arg Ser Ala Val Val Val Ile Ala Met Glu Pro Ser Ser 1 10 15

tee ate acc atc gcg teg teg tee teg tac etc teg aac ggg tet age 514 Ser Ile Thr Ile Ala Ser Ser Ser Ser Tyr Leu Ser Asn Gly Ser Ser 20 25 30

ccg cgg tac aag atg gag gag ctc gtg ccg gga ggc cgc gtg ggg cgc 562 Pro Arg Tyr Lys Met Glu Glu Leu Val Pro Gly Gly Arg Val Gly Arg
40
45

gae gee tte etg teg etg etg gyl tae etg tae aeg gge aag ete egg 610 Asp Ala Phe Leu Ser Leu Leu Gly Tyr Leu Tyr Thr Gly Lys Leu Arg

50 55 60 cog gog cog gat gac gtg gtg toe tge goe gae eee atg tge eeg cae 658

Pro Ala Pro Asp Asp Val Val Ser Cys Ala Asp Pro Met Cys Pro His

70

80

gac teg tge eeg eeg geg ate agg tte aac gte gag eaa atg tac geg /06 Asp Ser Cys Pro Pro Ala Ile Arg Phe Asn Val Glu Gln Met Tyr Ala 85 90 95

geg tgg geg tte aag ate ace gag etc ate teg etg tte eag ega egg 754

Ala	Trp	Ala	Phe 100	Lys	Ile	Thr	Glu	Leu 105	Ile	Ser	Leu	Phe	Gln 110	Arg	Arg	
		aac Asn 115			-				_	_	_	_				802
-		gtt Val	_				-	-							-	850
		aga Arg		_					-		_	_	_	_		898
-		cct Pro		_	_	_	-	-					_			946
		cca Pro				_		_			~		~			994
		gtc Val 195														1042
		aag Lys										_	-		_	1090
		ttg Leu														1138
	-	tta Leu	-	_	-		-		_		_	_		_	_	1186
		acg Thr														1234
		tgt Cys 275						_	_				_			1282
		cag Gln														1330
		aat Asn													-	1378
tta	tgt	att	gat	ata	tta	gat	agg	gag	atg	ata	agg	aaa	cct	atg	gca	1426

Leu	Cys	Ile	Asp	Ile 325	Leu	Asp	Arg	Glu	<b>M</b> et 330	Ile	Arg	Lys	Pro	<b>M</b> et 335	Ala	
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_				ctt Leu				-	_			-				1522
				aag Lys												1570
				att Ile												1618
				aac Asn 405												1666
				gca Ala												1714
				tcg Ser												1762
				gat Asp												1810
				agg Arg												1858
				aaa Lys 485												1906
tca Ser	tct Ser	tca Ser	tcg Ser 500	tca Ser	tci Ser	tcy Ser	cca Pro	oot Pro 505	ccc Pro	aag Lys	gtt Val	gca Ala	аад Гуз 510	aaa Lys	tga	1954
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aaaaaaaaa aa 2326

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<211> 511

<212> PRT

<213> Oryza sativa

<400> 14

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Ser Ile Thr Ile Ala Ser Ser Ser Ser Tyr Leu Ser Asn Gly Ser Ser 20 25 30

Pro Arg Tyr Lys Met Glu Glu Leu Val Pro Gly Gly Arg Val Gly Arg 35 40 45

Asp Ala Phe Leu Ser Leu Leu Gly Tyr Leu Tyr Thr Gly Lys Leu Arg 50 60

Pro Ala Pro Asp Asp Val Val Ser Cys Ala Asp Pro Met Cys Pro His 65 70 75 80

Asp Ser Cys Pro Pro Ala Ile Arg Phe Asn Val Glu Gln Met Tyr Ala 85 90

Ala Trp Ala Phe Lys Ile Thr Glu Leu Ile Ser Leu Phe Gln Arg Arg
100 105 110

Leu Leu Asn Phe Val Asp Lys Thr Leu Val Glu Asp Val Leu Pro Ile 115 120 125

Leu Gln Val Ala Phe His Ser Glu Leu Thr Pro Val Leu Glu Lys Cys 130 140

Ile Arg Arg Ile Ala Arg Ser Asn Leu Asp Asn Val Ser Leu Asp Lys. 145 150 155 160

Glu Leu Pro Pro Glu Val Ala Val Gln Ile Lys Glu Ile Arg Gln Lys 165 170 175

Ser Gln Pro Asn Glu Gly Asp Thr Val Ile Ser Asp Pro Val His Glu 180 185 190

Lys Arg Val Arg Arg Ile His Arg Ala Leu Asp Ser Asp Asp Val Glu 195 200 205

Leu Val Lys Leu Leu Leu Asn Glu Ser Glu Ile Thr Leu Asp Asp Ala 210 215 220

Asn Ala Leu His Tyr Ala Ala Ala Tyr Cys Asp Ser Lys Val Val Ser 225 230 235 240

Glu Leu Leu Asp Leu Arg Leu Ala Asn Leu Asn Leu Lys Asn Ser Arg 255 255

Gly Tyr Thr Ala Leu His Leu Ala Ala Met Arg Arg Glu Pro Ala Ile 260 265 270

Ile Met Cys Leu Leu Asn Lys Gly Ala Ala Val Ser Gln Leu Thr Ala 275 280 285

Asp Gly Gln Ser Ala Met Ser Ile Cys Arg Arg Leu Thr Arg Met Lys 290 295 300

Asp Tyr Asn Thr Lys Met Glu Gln Gly Gln Glu Scr Acn Lys Asp Arg 305 310 315 320

Leu Cys Ile Asp Ile Leu Asp Arg Glu Met Ile Arg Lys Pro Met Ala 325 330 335

Val Glu Asp Ser Val Thr Ser Pro Leu Leu Ala Asp Asp Leu His Met 340 345 350

Lys Leu Teu Tyr Leu Glu Asn Arg Val Ala Phe Ala Arg Leu Phe Phe Pro Ala Glu Ala Lys Val Ala Met Gln Ile Ala Gln Ala Asp Thr Thr 375 Pro Glu Phe Gly Ile Val Pro Ala Ala Ser Thr Ser Gly Lys Leu Lys 390 395 Glu Val Asp Leu Asn Glu Thr Pro Val Thr Gln Asn Lys Arg Leu Arg 405 410 Ser Arg Val Asp Ala Leu Met Lys Thr Val Glu Leu Gly Arg Arg Tyr 425 Phe Pro Asn Cys Ser Gln Val Leu Asp Lys Phe Leu Glu Asp Asp Leu 440 Pro Asp Ser Pro Asp Ala Leu Asp Leu Gln Asn Gly Thr Ser Asp Glu 455 Gln Asn Val Lys Arg Met Arg Phe Cys Glu Leu Lys Glu Asp Val Arg **4**70 475 Lys Ala Phe Ser Lys Asp Arg Ala Asp Asn Ser Met Phe Ser Ile Leu 485 490 Ser Ser Ser Ser Ser Ser Pro Pro Pro Lys Val Ala Lys Lys

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<213> Oryza sativa

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gat aag gtt gaa gta gat aac ett eta ttg ate tta tet gtt gee aac — 144 Asp Lys Val Glu Val Asp Asn Leu Leu Leu Ile Leu Ser Val Ala Asn 35 — 40 — 45

tta tgc aac aaa tet tgc atg aaa etg ett gaa aga tge ett gat atg 192 Leu Cys Asn Lys Ser Cys Met Lys Leu Glu Arg Cys Leu Asp Met 50 55 60

gta gtc cyg tca aac ctt gac atg att act ctt gag aag tca ttg cct 240 Val Val Arg Ser Asn Leu Asp Met Ile Thr Leu Glu Lys Ser Leu Pro 65 70 75 80

cca gat gtt atc aag cag att att gat gca cgc cta agc ctc gga tta 288
Pro Asp Val Ile Lys Gln Ile Ile Asp Ala Arg Leu Ser Leu Gly Leu
85 90 95

			_			gga Gly										336
	_	-		~		gac Asp	_	_	-		_					384
	_		_			ctt Leu 135	_	-			-				_	432
_	_		_			aaa Lys						_	_		_	480
	_	_	_			aga Arg			-				_			528
	-			_	-	gag Glu										576
_		_	_			gat Asp	_			_		_		_	_	624
						aca Thr 215										672
_	_					cca Pro		_			-		-		-	720
						gac Asp								-		768
		-	_			agt Ser		-			_					816
	_	_	_	_	-	agg Arg		-		_	-		_	_	-	864
						gtg Val 295										912
		_				cct Pro	_	_						~		960

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gea ete tee aaa aca gtg gag ete ggg aaa Ala Leu Ser Lys Thr Val Glu Leu Gly Lys 345		1056
teg aac gtg ete gae aag ate atg gat gat Ser Asn Val Leu Asp Lys Ile Met Asp Asp 355 360	3 3 3	1104
ctc gga aga gac acg tcc gcg gag aag agg Leu Gly Arg Asp Thr Ser Ala Glu Lys Arg 370 375		1152
cag gat gtt ctt cag aag gca ttc cac gag Gln Asp Val Leu Gln Lys Ala Phe His Glu 385 390		1200
agg tog ggg etc tog tog tog tog toa tog Arg Ser Gly Leu Ser Ser Ser Ser Ser Ser 405	Thr Ser Ile Gly Ala Ile	1248
cga cca agg aga tga acaccattgc tcccaaat Arg Pro Arg 420	ag ttgccatatt gatagctaac	1303
tgtootootg gagotactra cotgatggtt gootto	tgtc aattgeeecc caaatatatt	1363
ctcaatggtt taggcttgta cagtattagt tcttac	eaget attgccccgt caattgtgaa	1423
acgcagaagt ttcactagtg cttgtactcg aggtgt	aata caagtgettg aattttgagt	<b>14</b> 83
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ааааааааа аа		1565
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35 40 Leu Cys Asn Lys Ser Cys Met Lys Leu Leu	45	
50 55	60	
Val Val Arg Ser Asn Leu Asp Met Ile Thr 65 70	75 80	

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Pro Asp Val Ile Lys Gln Ile Ile Asp Ala Arg Leu Ser Leu Gly Leu
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Ile Ser Pro Glu Asn Lys Gly Phe Pro Asn Lys His Val Arg Arg Ile
                             105
His Arg Ala Leu Asp Ser Asp Asp Val Glu Leu Val Arg Met Leu Leu
                         120
Thr Glu Gly Gln Thr Asn Leu Asp Asp Ala Phe Ala Leu His Tyr Ala
                   135
Val Glu His Cys Asp Ser Lys Ile Thr Thr Glu Leu Leu Asp Leu Ala
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Leu Ala Asp Val Asn His Arg Asn Pro Arg Gly Tyr Thr Val Leu His
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                               170
Ile Ala Ala Arg Arg Arg Glu Pro Lys Ile Ile Val Ser Leu Leu Thr
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Lys Gly Ala Arg Pro Ala Asp Val Thr Phe Asp Gly Arg Lys Ala Val
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Gln Ile Ser Lys Arg Leu Thr Lys Gln Gly Asp Tyr Phe Gly Val Thr
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Glu Glu Gly Lys Pro Ser Pro Lys Asp Arg Leu Cys Ile Glu Ile Leu
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                                   235
Glu Gln Ala Glu Arg Arg Asp Pro Gln Leu Gly Glu Ala Ser Val Ser
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                               250
Leu Ala Met Ala Gly Glu Ser Leu Arg Gly Arg Leu Leu Tyr Leu Glu
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                            265
Asn Arg Val Ala Leu Ala Arg Ile Met Phe Pro Met Glu Ala Arg Val
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                                       300
Ser Gly Ala Asn Pro Pro Pro Glu Arg Gln Arg Thr Thr Val Asp Leu
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                                    315
Asn Glu Ser Pro Phe Ile Met Lys Glu Glu His Leu Ala Arg Met Thr
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Ala Leu Ser Lys Thr Val Glu Leu Gly Lys Arg Phe Phe Pro Arg Cys
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Ser Asn Val Leu Asp Lys Ile Met Asp Asp Glu Thr Asp Pro Val Ser
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gaga	agaco	caa a	aagge	cagco	et co	cccc	cttt	g cct	tcad	caca	tgg	tggt	ccg g	gctc	tagggc	120
ccti	cetttegeet egtgettgge ggeggtg atg gag eeg teg teg tee ate aeg tte 1  Met Glu Pro Ser Ser Ser Ile Thr Phe  1 5  gee tee teg teg tee tac etg tee aac gge tee age eec tge tee gte 2															174
_			_	tcc Ser							_		_		_	222
				ctg Leu 30												270
				agc Ser												318
_				gag Glu	_				_		_		_	_	_	366
				gac Asp												414
				gcc Ala											_	462
				cgc Arg 110												510
				G]y												558
				gac Asp										-	-	606
				atg Met												654
	_	_	_	gtg Val			_	_				_		-	_	702

170					175					180					185	
		_	_				_	_		ctc Leu	-					750
	_		_				~		_	ttc Phe		-			_	798
			_	_			-	_	_	gtc Val	_			_		846
_	-								_	cgt Arg	~			_		894
										tct Ser 260						942
		_		-		-				atc Ile		_				990
		_		_				_	_	cct Pro	_					1038
										gat Asp					_	1086
										cta Leu						1134
										aaa Lys 340						1182
										aag Lys						1230
										gaa Glu						1278
-						_			-	caa Gln			_	_		1326
-		-	-			_	_	_		aca Thr	_			-		1374

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							_	_				-		gcg Ala 440	_	1470
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_		_	_		_	_			_					cct Pro	_	1566
-		_	_	-						~	_			cca Pro	_	1614
														gaa Glu		1662
				_		-							_	tcg Ser 520		1710
														ttc Phe		1758
	_			_		_			_		~		_	cct Pro	_	1806
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														aaa Lys		1902
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<211> 609

<212> PRT

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Val Glu Ala Val Ser Leu Asn Arg Leu Ser Asn Asn Leu Glu Arg Leu 55

Leu Leu Asp Ser Glu Leu Asp Cys Ser Asp Ala Asp Val Asp Met Ala 70

Asp Gly Gly Pro Pro Ile Pro Val His Arg Cys Ile Leu Ala Ala Arg 90 85

Ser Pro Phe Phe His Asp Leu Phe Arg Ala Arg Gly Ser Arg Ser Asp 105 100

Gly Ala Val 'Thr Ala Ser Ala Ser Ala Ser Ala Thr Ser Gly Gly Ala 125 120

Gly Gly Asp Val Thr Gly Arg Pro Gln Tyr Lys Met Glu Asp Leu Val 140 135

Pro Gly Gly Arg Val Gly Arg Glu Ala Phe Leu Ala Phe Met Gly Tyr 155 150

Leu Tyr Thr Gly Arg Leu Arg Pro Ala Pro Leu Asp Val Val Ser Cys 170 165

Ala Asp Leu Val Cys Pro His Asp Ser Cys Pro Pro Ala Ilc Arg Phe 190 185

Ala Val Glu Leu Met Tyr Ala Ala Trp Thr Phe Arg Ile Pro Glu Leu 205 200 195

Met Ser Leu Phe Gln Arg Arg Leu Met Asn Phe Ile Asp Lys Thr Leu 220 215

Ala Glu Asp Val Leu Pro Ile Leu Gln Val Ala Phe His Ser Glu Leu 235 230 225

Thr Gln Val Arg Gly Lys Cys Val Gln Arg Ile Ala Arg Ser Asp Leu 250 245

Asp Ile Met Ser Leu Asp Lys Glu Leu Pro Pro Glu Ile Ala Asp Glu 265

Ile Lys Iys Ile Arg Gln Lys Ser Ser Pro Ile Asp Gly Asp Thr Ile

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Ile Ser Asp Pro Val His Glu Lys Arg Val Arg Arg Ile His Arg Ala
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Glu Ile Thr Leu Asp Asp Ala Asn Ala Leu His Tyr Ala Ala Ala Tyr
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                                   330
Cys Asp Ser Lys Val Leu Thr Glu Leu Leu Gly Leu Glu Leu Ala Asn
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Leu Asn Leu Lys Asn Ser Arg Gly Tyr Thr Ala Leu His Leu Ala Ala
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Met Arg Arg Glu Pro Ala Ile Ile Met Cys Leu Leu Ser Lys Gly Ala
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Val Ala Ser Gln Leu Thr Asp Asp Gly Arg Leu Ala Ser Asn Ile Cys
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Arg Arg Leu Thr Arg Leu Lys Asp Tyr Asn Ala Lys Met Glu Gln Gly
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Thr Lys Asn Lys Arg Leu Arg Ser Arg Val Asp Ala Leu Val Lys Thr
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Val Glu Leu Gly Arg Arg Tyr Phe Pro Asn Cys Ser Gln Val Leu Asp
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Lys Phe Leu Glu Asp Gly Leu Pro Asp Gly Leu Asp Ala Phe Gln Gln
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Gln Ser Gly Thr Pro Asp Glu Gln Gln Val Lys Lys Met Arg Phe Cys
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<222> (451)..(1668)

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<sup>&</sup>lt;212> DNA

<sup>&</sup>lt;213> Triticum aestivum

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gactteggat tittatgtat titttagtga tgatatgett tieettetta getitgte	at 300										
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tgatgetaae tetegtegae ttgetaettg taacagttet etattgttet attgttte	at 420										
gtttttgaga agcgagtact aacccatgtt atg ccc ttc ttt tcc atg cag cgg Met Pro Phe Phe Ser Met Gln Arg 1 5											
cat etc ett gat tte ett gat aaa gtt gaa gtg gat aac ett eeg ttg His Leu Leu Asp Phe Leu Asp Lys Val Glu Val Asp Asn Leu Pro Leu 10 15 20											
ate tha tet git gea aac tia tge aac aaa tet tge gig aaa eig tie Ile Leu Ser Val Ala Asn Leu Cys Asn Lys Ser Cys Val Lys Leu Pho 25 30 35 40	2										
gag aga tgc atg gag atg gta gtc cgg tca aat ctt gac atg att act Glu Arg Cys Met Glu Met Val Val Arg Ser Asn Leu Asp Met Ile Thr 45 50 55											
cta gag aaa gca ttg cct caa gat gtc atc aag caa att act gat tta Leu Glu Lys Ala Leu Pro Gln Asp Val Ile Lys Gln Ile Thr Asp Leu 60 65 70											
cgg ata act ett gga tta get tea eee gaa gae aat gge ttt eet aac Arg Ile Thr Leu Cly Leu Ala Ser Pro Glu Asp Asn Gly Phe Pro Asr 75 80 85											
aaa cac gta aga agg ata ctc aga gca ctt gat tct gat gat gtg gag Iys His Val Arg Arg Ile Leu Arg Ala Leu Asp Ser Asp Asp Val Glu 90 95 100	-										
ctt gtc agg atg ctg ctc aca gaa ggg cag act aac ctt gat gat gca Leu Val Arg Met Leu Leu Thr Glu Gly Gln Thr Asn Leu Asp Asp Ala 105 110 115 120	à										
ttt gca ttg cac tat gct gta gaa cac tgt gac tca aaa att aca aca Phe Ala Leu His Tyr Ala Val Glu His Cys Asp Ser Lys Ile Thr Thr 125 130 135											
gaa ett etg gae ate gea ett geg gat gtt aat ete aga aac eea aga Glu Leu Leu Asp Ile Ala Leu Ala Asp Val Asn Leu Arg Asn Pro Arg 140 145 150											
ggt tat act gtt ctt cac atc gcc gct aag cgg aga gat cct aaa atc Gly Tyr Thr Val Leu His Ile Ala Ala Lys Arg Arg Asp Pro Lys Ile 155 160 165											

			ctt Leu													1002
	Gly		aaa Lys													1050
gat <b>As</b> p	tat Tyr	ttt Phe	Gly ggg	aat Asn 205	act Thr	gaa Glu	gaa Glu	gga Gly	aag Lys 210	ccg Pro	tct Ser	ccc Pro	aat Asn	gat Asp 215	aaa Lys	1098
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gga Gly	gaa Glu	gca Ala 235	tca Ser	ctt Leu	tct Ser	ctt Leu	gca Ala 240	ttg Leu	gct Ala	ggt Gly	gac Asp	tgt Cys 245	ctt Leu	cgt Arg	gga Gly	1194
			tac Tyr													1242
cca Pro 265	att Ile	gag Glu	gca Ala	aga Arg	gta Val 270	gca Ala	atg Met	gac Asp	att Ile	gct Ala 275	caa Gln	gtg Val	gat Asp	ggt Gly	act Thr 280	1290
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acc Thr	gtt Val	gat Asp	ctg Leu 300	aat Asn	gat Asp	act Thr	tct Ser	ttc Phe 305	aaa Lys	atg Met	aag Lys	gag Glu	gaa Glu 310	cac His	tta Leu	1386
			aga Arg													1434
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